

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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No. 768.—VOL. XV.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1869.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

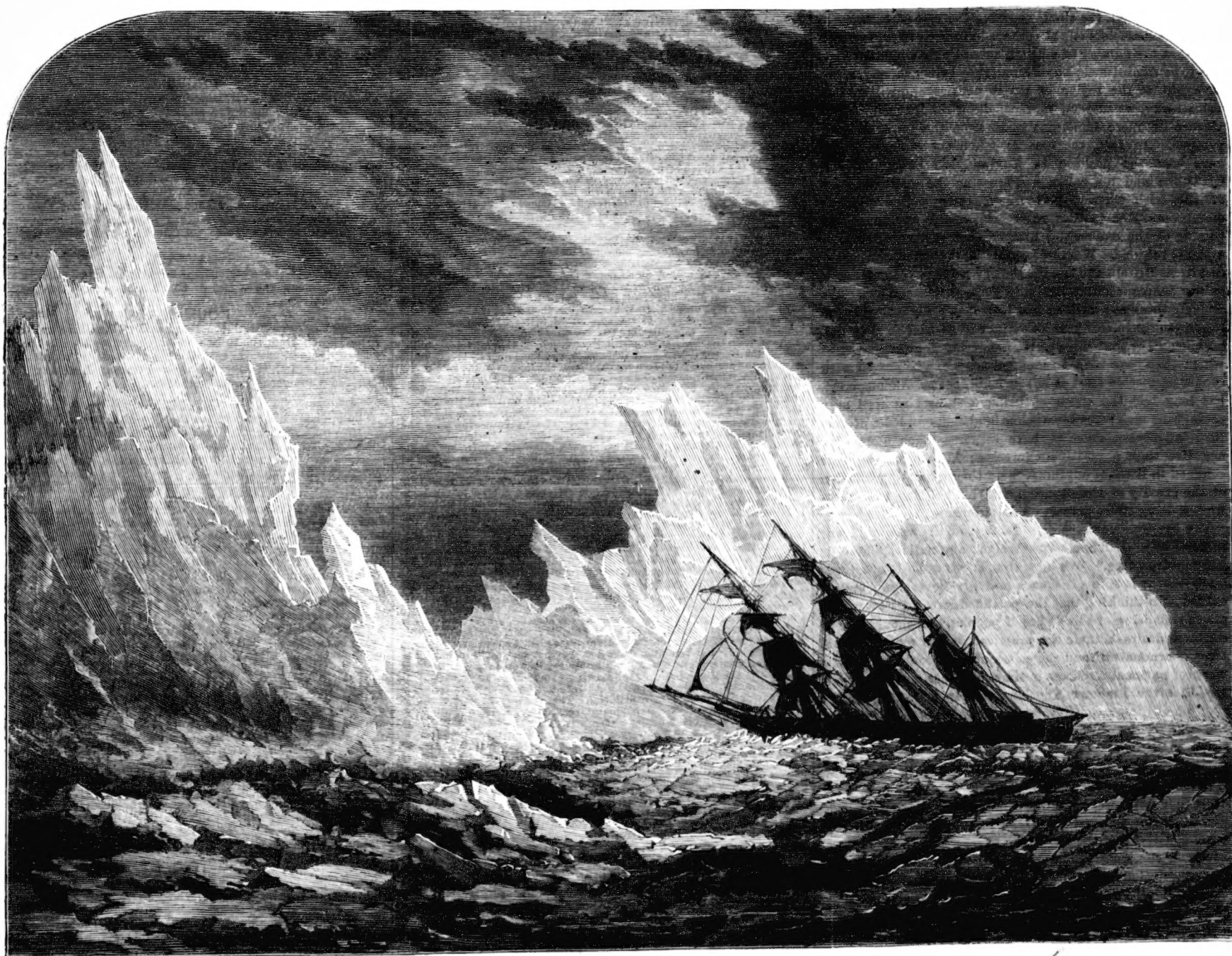
THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

"DISILLUSIONED!" must, we fancy, have been the condition of two orders of politicians on reading the speech delivered by the Emperor of the French to the Chambers on Monday—those, namely, who have heretofore believed in the supreme wisdom of Napoleon III. and those who, though not believing in the divine inspiration of Napoleonic ideas, yet expected his Majesty to make a revelation of policy startling from its liberality. The one class must have felt that their idol was sadly shattered, and the anticipations of the other must have undergone a sore disappointment, for neither indications of supreme wisdom nor manifestations of startling liberality were displayed. The Emperor's utterances, considered by unimpassioned critics, alike unswayed by Republican enthusiasm or dynastic loyalty, appear as tame and commonplace as though they had emanated from the representative of one of the ancient obstructive monarchies of Europe, intent only on staving off change or dreaming that shadows could be substituted for substances, appearances for realities, and unconscious of the progress of opinion and the force of influences that surround him. We seem to have read some such speech many times before, and from many different speakers. The form is, perhaps, a little different, but the spirit is the same; yea, even the very old stock phrases are reproduced. Mere nibbles at reform are promised, when great measures were looked

for; what may be designated "parish politics" are dwelt upon, when grand imperial themes ought to have been discussed; impotent wails over difficulties, and implied threats, take the place of a statesman-like development of a broad policy suited to the emergencies of the times and the desires of France. As we read we feel that Napoleon III., like other inhabitants of palaces, seems mainly to think of his own wishes and his own power, and to listen only to the voices of Court favourites and Imperial flatterers, almost unconscious, apparently, that a mighty crisis has arrived in his own career and in the political history of his country. In short, the Imperial mountain has been in labour, and the product is only not ridiculous in our eyes because, as our readers are aware, we expected little from the parturient process in which his Majesty has been engaged since June last; and, furthermore, because we deem no reforms, however small, unworthy of acceptance.

The Emperor begins by declaring that "it is not easy to establish liberty in France." Perhaps not; but, as his Majesty has found, it seems equally difficult to permanently establish despotism there. He has made a tolerably persistent attempt to accomplish the last-named feat; while few will accuse him of making too energetic efforts to achieve the former. The French people may be unequal to the "regular and peaceful exercise of liberty," as the Emperor says they are; but even his most fanatical ad-

mirers, in France or elsewhere, will scarcely contend that he has afforded them much opportunity for practice. Men cannot learn swimming who never go—or are never permitted to go—into the water; and if Frenchmen are yet unfit for liberty after eighteen years of his Majesty's tuition, it is but natural to conclude that some portion of the blame rests with their teacher. Had he permitted a little more real political action, had he freely allowed his people to practise what he implies that he wished them to learn, it is just possible they might by this time have been a trifle more proficient in their studies—a shade more capable of the "regular and peaceful exercise of liberty." At all events, the desire for liberty has arisen in France. Even the Emperor admits so much; and neither the fact nor the confession of it is devoid of significance. "France," says his Majesty, "desires liberty; but liberty united with order." Of course she does; no people, as a whole, ever yet desired liberty dissociated from order. The one thing is impossible without the other. But France seems determined not to be contented with "order" while denied "liberty"; and this is the fact which the Emperor appears to have but imperfectly realised. "I will answer for order:" there spoke the master of big battalions, cannon, and chassepots. That sounded very much like the despot's threat; and may perhaps be taken—as probably it was intended—for an indication of conscious possession of power



THE SHIP STRATHNAVEN RUNNING THROUGH ICEBERGS.



and a will to use it. The power is there, certainly, and we daresay would be temporarily effective if called into requisition; yet it might prove futile, after all. Such things have happened as that the Emperor's next sentence, "Aid me, gentlemen, to save liberty," may be changed into "Aid me, soldiers, to save my dynasty;" which would scarcely be worth saving if it could only be preserved by such means. But is there not in that cry, "Aid me to save liberty," a confession of both failure and weakness? Napoleon III., by his own showing, has been labouring to save liberty for eighteen years; and it seems that it is still in need of salvation, and that he is by himself unable to be its saviour.

After that admission, one would have thought the Emperor might have been inclined to go a little further on the road to "conciliation and progress;" to have conceded somewhat more frankly and fully the measures France really wants. What those measures are is plain enough to all who care to look, if they be unknown to the man who of all others is most interested in discovering them. The French wish to possess a larger degree of control over their national affairs; and to this end they desire—1, The abrogation of personal government, the introduction of real ministerial responsibility, and the concession of genuine freedom in legislation; 2, The abolition of the system of official candidates for seats in Parliament, so as to render the deputies truly representatives of the people; 3, The abandonment by the Government of the right to rearrange electoral districts—a right which has notoriously been exercised so as to secure the election of Government nominees, not men of the people's choice; and, 4, Freedom of discussion, both on the platform and in the press. These things are not enjoyed in France now; these things the French desire; but these things the Emperor does not promise. "This, Sir, was expected at your hands; and this was baulked." He offers instead a number of minor reforms, all very good and desirable in themselves, but utterly insufficient to meet the requirements of the times, to satisfy the aspirations of the French people, or to merit the name of great reforms. Improvements in the machinery for managing communal and municipal affairs (there was very great room for reform in this direction, seeing that practically the public possess no control over local concerns at all); "the more rapid development of gratuitous primary instruction; the decreasing of legal expenses; the removal of the demi-decime war tax, which weighs upon the registration duty in matters of succession; the affording greater facilities of access to the savings banks, and the placing them within the reach of the inhabitants of rural districts through the aid of treasury agents; a more humane regulation of infant labour in manufactories; and an increase of the salaries of subordinate officials." These indications all point in a good direction, though the clause touching increase of salaries to subordinate officials might perhaps have been improved by a hint that the number of officials, subordinate and otherwise, was to be diminished; but after all they belong merely, as we have said, to the region of parish politics, and will go but a small way, we suspect, in reconciling the French to the absence of more important items from the Imperial programme. In fact, the case is much the same as would have been the position in England last Session if Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, ignoring the great question of the Irish Church, had rested their policy on such measures as the institution of local boards of finance, the passing of the Bankruptcy Bill, or even Mr. Forster's educational reforms. Would proposals of that kind have satisfied Great Britain and Ireland then? And are such measures as the Emperor offers likely to content France now? We scarcely think so; and we fear Napoleon sadly misreads the lesson taught in this year's elections if he fancies they will be enough, or that Frenchmen, hungering for the liberty of which they have been so long denuded, can be put off with such a barmecide feast as he sets before them. Napoleon III. has long had the credit of being a shrewd as well as a courageous man; but his wisdom and courage, if he possess these attributes, seem to have assumed much more of a negative than a positive character; his wisdom appears confined to little, if anything, more than a half appreciation of the gravity of the situation, and his boldness to a somewhat halting effort to meet its requirements.

The Emperor's references to foreign affairs are significant in more ways than one. "Sovereigns and nations," he tells us, "desire peace." We hope this is true of both, and especially that it is true of France and her Sovereign; but we cannot help thinking that the pacific desires of Sovereigns are the offspring of the wishes of peoples, and should like to see these desires assume the practical form of mutual reductions of armaments, and the consequent discontinuance of a waste of national resources in times of peace. It is evident, too, that the Emperor Napoleon no longer aspires to the position of dictator of Europe, which his flatterers were wont to assign to him on the strength of a real or fancied disposition to intermeddle in the affairs of every neighbouring nation. That at least is a wholesome sign of the times, and conveys a pointed rebuke to those political dabblers who for some time past have been in the habit of decrying the policy of abstention pursued by Great Britain and exalting the officious activity of the Emperor—of proclaiming his importance and our insignificance in European affairs. We have this consolation in our humiliation, if humiliated we be, that English opinion counts for something still among the nations, and is respected by them; while France, even at her greatest under the Emperor's auspices, was regarded as a danger, and to some extent is so still. If Great Britain has not of late

years aspired to play a great rôle in Europe, she at least has not had to abandon ground she had taken up; which the French Ruler tacitly does. Which position is most to be desired—his or ours?

THE SHIP STRATHNAVEN IN THE ICE.

THE ship Strathnaven, Captain Devey, which arrived in the Thames a few days ago from Sydney, New South Wales, reports as follows:—

"Sept. 24, in about lat 44.53 S., long. 30 W., strong winds and squally weather; reefed upper mizen-topsail. At nine p.m. ship pitched unusually heavy; 9.45 p.m. strong wind, with heavy squalls at intervals, ship under foresail, topsails, and main topgallant-sails and main-royal, wind south-westerly, ship steering N.E. by N., when we suddenly came on a large barrier of ice and icebergs extending six to eight points on each bow. Immediately brought the ship to the wind, head to S.E., getting in royal and topgallant sails as quickly as possible. Braced sharp up on star-board tack, but could not weather the barrier of ice. All hands on deck; ship sailing through pieces of broken ice, and a fearful swell on to windward of the barrier; ship lurching fearfully, filling main-deck with water over the lee rail and washing ice on the deck. Eleven p.m., icebergs close aboard all round. Hauled up foresail and let go the upper topsail-halyards; wore ship to westward, but still could not weather the ice; therefore determined, it being the only course to pursue, to run between two large icebergs, less than a quarter of a mile apart, amongst a quantity of small field-ice, with a terrible swell running, the main-deck being filled with water at different times, washing away spar beds, braces, and all small things from the deck. Cleared the passage, without injury, about 2.15 a.m., from which time to daylight, ship steering to N.W., passed icebergs more or less near every few minutes, weather still continuing very equally. At daylight, some twenty icebergs round about us, set foresail and upper topsails, and kept the ship on her course. The last iceberg seen was about 7.30 a.m. on the 25th. All hands and passengers on deck all night, attending braces, &c. Morning finer, after the most fearful night that could well be passed." The scene described in the above extract from Captain Devey's report is depicted in our Engraving.

THE LOSS OF THE CARNATIC.—Judgment was given last Saturday by the Court of Inquiry into the loss of the Carnatic. It was to the effect that the captain's explanation that he was steering the same course as that he had followed in previous voyages, and that some unknown current must have drifted the vessel to the westward, was not satisfactory, as, had a single bearing been taken of the Ashrafie revolving light, which the ship passed at a distance of two miles, it would have indicated such a fact. The Court for this default suspended the captain's certificate for nine months. Captain Baker, one of the Court, said he coincided in the judgment, but considered the period of suspension too long. This, however, does not affect the validity of the sentence pronounced.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—The controversy respecting the administration of St. Bartholomew's Hospital recalls a passage in a speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone, whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer, in withdrawing his scheme for the taxation of charities, May 4, 1863. The right hon. gentleman on that occasion said:—"One of the great evils of the present system is that, while you bestow public money on these establishments, you dispend with all public control over them, and thus annul all effective motives for economy. Endowed institutions laugh at public opinion. The press knows nothing of their expenditure; Parliament knows nothing of it. It is too much to say that hospitals are managed by angels and archangels, and do not, like the rest of humanity, stand in need of supervision, criticism, and rebuke. Therefore, even in the case of St. Bartholomew's, I object to an exception which, by its very nature, at once removes the principal motive for economical management. When the managers tell me that the exaction of £820 will compel them to dismiss 500 patients, I am entitled to ask—why, then, do you spend £220 in a feast? What right have you in an hour to eat up 150 beds?"

A BISHOP REBUKED.—The Rev. John Ingle, one of the leading High Churchmen of Exeter, has declined to sign the memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury against Dr. Temple's consecration. In a caustic letter addressed to Bishop Trower he says:—"You speak of Dr. Temple's continued countenance of the 'Essays and Reviews,' forgetful of the fact that such countenance is certainly a matter purely of your own inference and surmise, and may for all you know exist only in your own imagination. Your only ground for the charge is that he did not adopt that particular mode of purgation which you (and I too) think he should have adopted. Your other unfounded assumption is an uncharitable one. You speak and write and act as if no one but those who join your protests and memorials can care for the purity and integrity of the catholic faith. On this head I wish only to say that I would point simply to my own past life and to that of your Lordship. There is about the memorial before me only one thing on which I can look with satisfaction. It is the absence of those fearful accusations which made my blood run cold as I read your Lordship's letter to the Lord Primus of the Church of Scotland. How can you or anybody else know that even 'Essays and Reviews' have ruined souls? Does your Lordship still dare thus to sit on the throne of the Eternal Judge? I trust that the absence from the memorial of this fearful element of the letter may be taken as proof that your Lordship's eyes have been opened to its terribly profane character."

THE REVIVAL.—The Rev. W. Rogers, in his sermon at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Advent Sunday morning, took occasion to explain why he had not proposed to his parishioners to co-operate with him in such a course of revival services as so many London churches had witnessed lately. He said he had been invited to join the movement; and he thought his hearers would give him credit for not being backward in entering into any scheme which seemed likely to promote their spiritual welfare. He was as conscious as anyone of the amount of evil that prevailed in the midst of us, and of the call there was for great and strenuous efforts to improve, with God's aid, the spiritual condition of this vast metropolis. But it was his conviction that there were two fundamental errors to be found in the preaching of those who had been the leaders in the late movement. He would not deny the zeal, earnestness, and power with which that movement had been sustained; while it appeared to him there were grounds for thinking that it was also characterised by great disinterestedness. But the fundamental errors he alluded to gave a taint to the whole work, and these were the doctrine of auricular or private confession and that of the bodily presence of Christ in the sacrament. He felt that these doctrines, which tended to exalt unduly the office of the priesthood, were just those which were most contrary to the principles of the Church of England, and that, if they were to prevail, then the Reformation, for which our fathers bled and died, was stultified. In his sermons from that pulpit he had always avoided controversy. His aim had been to teach his people how to live and to do their duty, under Jesus Christ and with faith in Him. But he thought the time had come when men must speak out, and declare whether they held to the principles of Protestantism or whether they believed in something else. Mr. Rogers did not propose, he said, on that occasion to enter into details on the subject of the two great errors he had spoken of; but he hoped shortly to do this. He then turned to his text, and preached a brief and eloquent sermon, appropriate to the day.

THE GAME LAWS.—On Tuesday afternoon a public meeting was held in Birmingham for the purpose of considering the subject of the game laws. The meeting was convened in cattle-show week, with the view to secure the presence of agriculturists as well as townsmen. About 150 persons were present. Mr. Alderman Wiggins presided. Mr. McGeech, of the Hertfordshire Chamber of Agriculture, attended, and entered into an explanation of the resolutions adopted by that and other chambers in relation to this subject. The following resolutions were proposed:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the existing game laws are most injurious to agriculture, and more so because as farming becomes more scientific game-preserving becomes more artificial. That the present state of things is demoralising alike to the landlord, the farmer, and the labourer, is largely productive of crime, and adds greatly to the heavy rates under which all classes are now suffering. That every legitimate means should be taken to procure from the Legislature, not the reform, but the repeal of these laws." A discussion ensued, which lasted fully two hours, in the course of which all the well-known arguments against these laws were re-asserted. The principal speakers against the resolutions were Mr. William Fowler, land agent, of Erdington; and Mr. John Lowe (Mapplebeck and Lowe), Birmingham. Mr. Fowler, in the course of his remarks, said that in five-and-twenty-years' practice he had always condemned the excessive preservation of game; but he believed that the aggregate amount of damage done by it had been largely over-estimated, and that in most instances there was an arrangement in the matter of the rent as between the landlord and the tenant. Mr. Muntz, M.P., closed the discussion by citing numerous instances, from his own experience as a magistrate, farmer, and ratepayer, of the evil effects resulting from the operation of the present laws. He doubted (he said) whether the entire repeal of them could be procured; but, by pressure in the proper quarter and at the proper time, he felt confident that a considerable modification of them might be obtained. He urged that the matter should be pressed upon county candidates at the elections. Upon being put to the vote, the resolutions were carried all but unanimously. A vote of thanks to Mr. Alderman Wiggins closed the proceedings.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Empress Eugénie left Messina on Tuesday for Toulon, en route for Paris.

The first sitting of the Legislative Body took place on Tuesday, when the Left opened its campaign against the Government. In the name of that party, M. Jules Favre demanded permission to interpellate the Government relative to the delay in convoking the Chambers, the interference of the prefects in the elections, and the disturbances in Paris in June last; and, in conclusion, asked that a bill be drawn up declaring that henceforth constituent powers belong exclusively to the Legislative Body. On the part of the Reds, M. Raspail laid on the table a proposition demanding the impeachment of the Minister of the Interior for having caused assassination to be committed. This proposal caused a great uproar in the house.

At the sitting of the Chamber on Wednesday M. Schneider was re-elected President by a large majority. In thanking the House for the honour conferred upon him, he said that he accepted the office as a duty incumbent upon him at a time when the country claimed the devotion of all. At the same sitting the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber were also elected.

Comments upon the Emperor Napoleon's speech have now appeared in all the Paris papers, and the prevailing opinion appears to be one of dissatisfaction. The *Temps* says that its first impressions are so strengthened by the impressions of the public, that it need not more fully develop them. "The sentiment apparent in nearly all the papers," it adds, "is that of a great deception." The *Indépendance Belge* remarks that this is not the first time the present Sovereign of France has proclaimed his desire to remain at an equal distance from reaction and revolution, or recognised that France wishes for liberty while animated by a not less energetic desire for order. It says that these antitheses, or balancing of ideas, are the stock in trade of Imperial rhetoric, and tell us no more now than they did a year ago, or ten years ago, of the real ideas of the Emperor, his present dispositions, or his new policy, if new policy it be, and not a mere continuation of the old policy by fresh means, and adopted in appearance to fresh circumstances.

The Municipal Council of Commerce of Marseilles met last Saturday and passed a resolution expressing their wish for the maintenance of the principle of free trade and giving their support to the programme of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Society for the Defence of Commerce of Marseilles, as well as to all the steps which have been taken with the same object.

ITALY.

According to the *Opinione*, satisfactory progress is being made in the formation of the new Italian Ministry. The *Nazione* says that Signor Lanza will himself take the Finance Department; that Signor Castagnola will be Minister of the Interior; Signor Correnti, Minister of Public Works or Public Instruction; and Signor Torrigiani, Minister of Agriculture.

SPAIN.

It would appear from a Madrid despatch received in Paris that the candidature of the Duke of Genoa for the throne of Spain has less chance of success than ever. The *Correspondencia* says that the Spanish Government has received a telegram from its representative at Florence stating that the King of Italy regretted the unfavourable interpretation this subject received during his illness. While declaring his willingness to do all in his power as Sovereign, and as head of the family, to induce the Duke of Genoa to accept the crown, Victor Emmanuel added that he had not interfered with the wishes of the Duchess, who is resolutely opposed to the proposal; but that he would nevertheless try to persuade her.

The Republican Minority resumed their seats in the Cortes on the 26th ult., and soon after introduced a motion for a vote of censure against the Government for its conduct during the state of siege. Marshal Prim defended the Ministry, and the motion was rejected by 146 against 35 votes.

Mr. Layard has arrived at Madrid.

PRUSSIA.

The Berlin Statistical Bureau, says the *North German Correspondent*, lately instituted an inquiry into the state of Catholicism in Prussia, which has brought some curious facts to light. It has been proved, for instance, that Protestantism is on the increase in all parts of the kingdom. During the last nine years the number of Catholics in Pomerania and the Saxon provinces has positively decreased, and there is not a single district in which their increase is proportionate to the growth of the population. Nor is this all. It appears that this change is not the result of accident or of a strong momentary impulse, but continuous and general, and that the Protestant Church is everywhere slowly but surely gaining ground.

BAVARIA.

The result of the elections in Bavaria having been inimical to the Government, the whole of the Ministers have tendered their resignation.

ROUMANIA.

Prince Charles opened the Roumanian Chambers on Saturday with a speech from the throne, in which the position and prospects of the Principalities were spoken of in favourable terms. In commemoration of his marriage with Princess Elizabeth he has pardoned a number of minor offenders.

GREECE.

The Ministry has proposed in the Chamber a new Regency Bill. By its provisions, in the King's absence from the country, the Queen will be Regent; in the absence of the King and Queen, the Regency will be intrusted to the King's uncle, and in the latter's absence to his brother.

TURKEY AND EGYPT.

A good deal of mystery seems to hang over the relations of the Sultan and his Egyptian vassal. On the 28th ult. the *Paris Patrie* made the following statement:—"We learn that a Turkish ultimatum is to leave to-day for Cairo, and it is asserted that it summons the Khedive to submit within ten days to the expressed wishes of the Sultan, or otherwise the Porte has decided to proclaim him deposed in favour of Mustapha Fazyl Pacha." A Constantinople despatch gives this version of the affair:—"The rumours current of the dispatch of ships with troops to Egypt are without foundation. The following are the real facts of the case:—Three Ministerial Councils have been held for the consideration of the Khedive's last reply, in which his Highness deferentially declines to submit his Budget to the Porte, and maintains his independent right to contract loans. At the last sitting a memorandum, written by the Vizier and approved by the Sultan, was signed by all the Ministers. The document firmly recapitulates, from a Turkish point of view, the rights and privileges conceded to Egypt by treaties and firman, and summons the Khedive to accept this document as a rule for his conduct in all relations with the Porte." We now learn from Constantinople that "on Monday, Nov. 29, a firman was dispatched to the Khedive, and that it was confided for delivery to the hands of Server Effendi, one of the most distinguished diplomatists of the Sublime Porte, well known for his conciliatory disposition and polished courtesy. There is every reason to hope that, by the measure now taken, all difficulties will be smoothed over."

THE UNITED STATES.

The United States Government retains the custody of the Spanish gun-boats, but has permitted the construction of the vessels to be resumed, pending the judicial decision.

A telegram by the French Atlantic cable says it is reported that negotiations are pending between the conflicting factions of San Domingo for effecting a compromise involving the annexation of the island to the United States.



THE LATE ELECTIONS IN PARIS: COUNTING UP THE VOTES IN A CAFÉ.

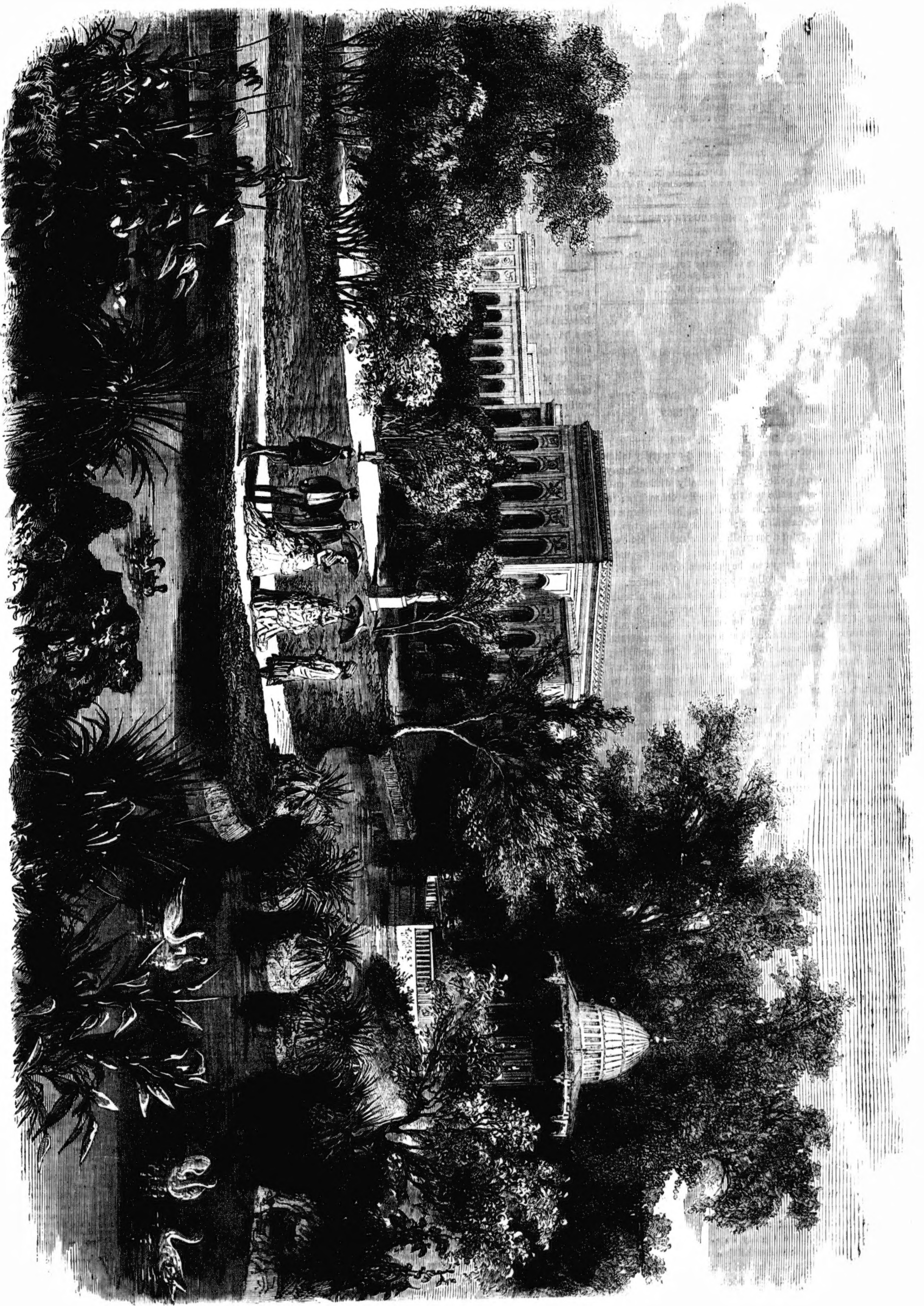
liberated in 1814, and on his return to Spain became Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment of his native district. He was engaged as one of the principal accomplices in the conspiracy at Cadiz in 1819; and when Quiroga and the rest of his companions were arrested he raised the standard of insurrection, proclaimed the Constitution of the

Cortes, and only finished by constraining Ferdinand VII. to accept it. He was afterwards elevated to the rank of Marshal of the Camp and Captain-General of Arragon. In 1823 he was charged by the Constitutional party with the command of the troops stationed at Malaga, and arrested Balasteros, but vainly attempted to check the approach of the French army, which was going to the

assistance of Ferdinand. The result of this failure was that he was given up to the Spanish Bourbon, and was executed on Nov. 5, 1823. It was to celebrate this anniversary by a solemn funeral ceremony that the people met at the scene of his execution, in order to pay honour to the memory of a man whom they now regard as a political martyr.



FUNERAL SERVICE IN MADRID ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF RAPHAEL RILCO.



THE PALACE OF CHERSIRAH, CAIRO, THE RESIDENCE OF THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE DURING HER VISIT.

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OF THE

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Velocipeding to the Christmas Party. Drawn by A. Slader.
The Homeless Girl on Christmas Day.
Christmas Eve in Germany, &c., &c.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1869.

AN OLD QUESTION.

It is the business of a newspaper, unless it avowedly takes a special line as its reason of being, to cultivate a distinctly non-sectarian line of policy. It is equally difficult and undesirable to make public writing wholly colourless; a man's leanings, like murder, will out, and his system can be constructed out of casual hints; but, for all that, it is, as a general rule, the duty of a journalist so to express his own opinions as not to "commit" his readers upon disputed points. It is not easy always to obey this rule; but we will endeavour to do so in what follows upon an old question.

The disestablishment of the English Church is a topic of which men have ceased to talk in whispers. Not only the critics of the Establishment, but some of its adherents and most respected dignitaries, have openly discussed the question, and insisted upon its imminence. The topic has risen to the surface more than once in the *Contemporary Review*, essentially a Church organ, and very largely contributed to by clergymen. Some of its writers have shown that they clearly apprehend the light in which Dissenters—that is to say, half the population of the island—look at the question; but, in the current number, a clergyman of the Established Church, the Rev. J. B. Mayor—taking for his text, "A History of the Free Churches of England, by Herbert S. Skeats"—exhibits what seem to us rather important misapprehensions upon a very simple matter. Not as a partisan, but simply as *amicus curiæ*, the ILLUSTRATED TIMES may intervene, and try to clear up what appears rather obscure at present.

We have not read Mr. Skeats's book, and it is not our business to defend it against the criticisms of Mr. Mayor; but does the latter gentleman apprehend the "case" of the Dissenters as stated by their advocates? He is so able a gentleman that it seems hard to answer this question in the negative; and yet we think no other course is open to anyone who understands the ultimate ground upon which Dissenters take their stand.

Mr. Skeats appears to have said that "church establishments and freedom of thought cannot co-exist." Now, this clearly means that, taken abstractly, either of the two things excludes the other. Strange to say, however, Mr. Mayor replies that more freedom of thought exists in the Church of England than among Dissenters; and he triumphantly asks "what Dissenting body would admit of such divergent views as are represented by Dr. Pusey and Bishop Colenso?" A more unlucky question could scarcely have been put. Mr. Skeats would, we are quite sure, make answer, "None; and so much the better." But it is obvious that Mr. Mayor has given the difficulty the go-by. If the ruling creed of Dissent were the most iron-bound that could be conceived, and the creed expressed by the Articles of the Established Church were that of sheer Rationalism, it would still be true, as Dissenters affirm, that "church establishments and freedom of thought cannot co-exist." Surely Mr. Mayor knows the meaning of the word freedom? And the question, which recent events have put in a tangible shape, is this—What is the limit, if any, up to which variety of opinion is permitted by the legally supported and legally enforceable formulæ of the Establishment? Mr. Mayor omits Mr. Voysey and the contention between him and his Superior; and he omits much besides. But here is the point:—A Dissenting Church, however strict its creed may be, or however lax, whether it be High Calvinist, Moravian, or Unitarian, is a perfectly voluntary association. The preachers need not preach, the deacons need not serve tables unless they are all agreed with the congregation. There

is a practical union, as far as the principle is concerned, of explicit dogma and personal freedom. But in any Church by law established it is manifest that your explicit dogma, pare away as much as you please of it, must finally come to a point at which it has the force of law and legal privilege to back it. In other words, it is not only perfectly true, it is perfectly obvious, that, as Mr. Skeats affirms, "church establishments and freedom of thought cannot co-exist." It is unnecessary to elaborate this. But how came Mr. Mayor to omit referring to it? He must know as well as any of our readers that Dissenters consider the variety of opinion within the Establishment its shame, and not its honour—its *reductio ad absurdum* as a political institution, and not its justification.

There is, however, another way in which the existence of a Church Establishment may be pronounced unfavourable to freedom of thought. Mr. Mayor is a hard-headed man, with a keen eye for a fact, and, as far as we can judge, considerable want of subtlety and delicacy of thought; but he must know very well that when certain privileges are by force of law attached to the profession of certain opinions, those opinions and those who profess them acquire an immense social prestige. Perhaps the most important part of the effects of a law is that which is indirect. Now, Mr. Mayor—who is quite a typical Churchman—makes far too light of this. He writes with almost sublime *insouciance*:—"The fact clearly is that Dissenters chose to separate themselves from the general current of the national life." Well, they did; because they thought the "general current" was running to the bad; and they now constitute half the nation. Had they a right to do it, or had they not? If they had, and if they were right, as they obviously were, in the opinion that one set of religious beliefs and practices was favoured at the expense of others, Mr. Skeats, and people like him, may well stand excused for much of the strong language which Mr. Mayor condemns. The truth is, Mr. Mayor does not know the facts. Within the memory of hundreds who will read these lines, Dissenters of all schools were subjected to an amount of social contumely and exclusion which amounted to downright persecution. Within the recollection of the present writer—Mr. Mayor dislikes strong language, but he shall have some more of it—Dissenters have been treated by the social thumbscrew in ways which disgraced not only religion but common humanity. Mr. Mayor actually stoops to refer to the ignorance and blatant exclusiveness of some of the early Dissenters; but is it not rather a mean thing to do? "Who began it?" Who, but this powerful corporation, with its splendid revenues, its immense machinery, its social prestige, and its exclusive Universities? What right—a Dissenter would ask—has one Christian to any *privilege* as against any other Christian, except spiritual privilege? A question which brings us nearer to the end of the subject.

Mr. Mayor's article is essentially political. It is not religious at all. And to his talk about a National Church Dissenters will reply that a nation is essentially a political conception, and one which Christianity utterly ignores. And, whether they are right or wrong in this, they will smile at the pride with which Mr. Mayor points out that great Churchmen like Jeremy Taylor have been advocates of what is called "toleration," but what ought to be called by some name indicating that it is a very little instalment of simple justice between man and man in the sight of Heaven. How came those great, good Churchmen to be advocates of "toleration"? A child could answer. Why, because the iron had entered into their own souls; because the difficulties which made simpler and more direct natures secede had begun to drive them to seek at least an intellectual outlet of some kind.

Our object has not been to take sides, but to re-state a case as "friend of the court." Mr. Skeats's book, we repeat, we have not read; but it seems to us that, in more than one place, Mr. Mayor is, on his own hypothesis, unjust to it; and it can do him no harm to be reminded that even a Churchman may err in his facts. He thinks he is convicting Mr. Skeats of an error with respect to the anti-slavery movement (page 503), whereas he is only showing his own ignorance of its later historic phases. Nor is this the only place in which Mr. Mayor is in too much haste to put on the thumbscrew. However, he does not mean to be unjust, and sometimes he is handsome and almost noble in his allowances.

THE SCOTTISH HOSPITAL.—Tuesday being the Feast of St. Andrew, the anniversary dinner of the Scottish Hospital took place at the Freemasons' Tavern. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided; and amongst the guests were Prince Christian, the Dukes of Montrose and Roxburghe, the Marquises of Hamilton and Huntly, Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Sir C. Macgregor, Sir P. Colquhoun, Sir Galbraith Logan, Mr. A. Kinnaid, M.P., Colonel Sykes, M.P., &c. An unusual number of those present wore the Highland costume, and with the music of the Queen's pipers illustrated the sentiment of nationality usually so conspicuous on these occasions.

WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—For some days past rumours of the intended closing of the Royal Arsenal have received extensive currency. The report appears to have originated in the War Department calling for some returns, from which an inference was drawn that it was the intention of the Government to retain only the number of workmen necessary to keep the machinery in order. The rumour having caused considerable consternation at Woolwich, a gentleman holding an official position in the district immediately communicated with Mr. Gladstone, requesting to be informed whether a sweeping reduction in the Royal Arsenal, such as indicated by the reports in question, is in contemplation, and has received the following reply:—"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, Nov. 29, 1869.—Sir, I am directed by Mr. Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., in which you say it is extensively reported that it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to carry out a very extensive plan of reduction in the Royal Arsenal, by discharging the greater part of the workmen there employed, and I am to inform you in reply that your letter has been referred to the Secretary of State for War, who desires me to explain to you that inquiries have been made at the Arsenal, as is usual at this time of the year, preparatory to the formation of the Army Estimates for 1870-1; but nothing has been done to warrant any inference of the nature of that which you have mentioned in your letter to Mr. Gladstone. The notion that it is intended to close the Royal Arsenal is entirely without foundation.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ALGERNON WEST. Mr. W. T. Vincent."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN will probably leave Windsor Castle for Osborne about the 15th inst., in order to spend Christmas in the Isle of Wight.

THE PRINCE OF WALES on Wednesday took his seat, in Grand Lodge, as a Past Grand Master of the Freemasons of England. The Earl of Zetland, who has been Acting Grand Master for twenty-six years, resigned, and Earl De Grey was nominated in his stead. The election takes place in March next.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES gave birth to a daughter on the 26th ult. Her Royal Highness and the infant Princess are progressing most favourably. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Princess's birth fell on Wednesday, and was celebrated in the usual manner.

PRINCE LEOPOLD, we regret, is again suffering from ill health.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and suite, left Claridge's Hotel shortly before noon on Monday, and drove to the Charing-Cross station of the South-Eastern Railway, en route for Belgium. A guard of honour of the second battalion Coldstream Guards, under command of Colonel Edwards, with the band, conducted by Mr. Fred. Godfrey, was in attendance at the station and played "La Brabançonne" as the King entered the station.

THE KING OF ITALY is well enough to go to the theatre. He was present a few evenings back at the Pergola Theatre, at Florence, to witness the representation of the "Ugonotti." When his Majesty appeared the whole audience rose and received him with enthusiastic cheers. A similar demonstration was made when the King left the house.

PRINCE ALBERT OF SCHWARTZBURG-RUDOLSTADT, which country forms part of the Northern Confederation, has just died, at the age of seventy-one, having succeeded his father, Prince Gunther, in 1867. George, born in 1838, son of the late Prince, is the new Sovereign.

THE DUCHESS D'AUMALE is lying dangerously ill at Orleans House, Twickenham. The Princess suffers from a disease in the veins which materially impedes the circulation of the blood.

BISHOP WILBERFORCE will be enthroned at Winchester on Thursday, Dec. 16. On the Monday following that day his Lordship hopes to hold, through the kindness of Bishop Sumner, a levee at Farnham Castle.

DR. HARVEY GOODWIN, the new Bishop of Carlisle, was confirmed in York Minster on Monday morning, and was consecrated on Tuesday.

SIR J. D. COLERIDGE, the Solicitor-General, will deliver an address at St. John College, on Jan. 20, on "The Freedom of Opinion necessary in an Established Church in a Free Country."

DR. TEMPLE was entertained at a banquet by the friendly societies of Rugby and the neighbourhood on Wednesday evening. A numerous signed address was presented to the Bishop-Elect, congratulating him upon his appointment to the see of Exeter, and expressive of the most hearty wishes that he might long be spared to preside over the largest diocese in England.

THE SPEAKER'S WARRANT for the election of a member of Parliament for King's Lynn, in place of Lord Stanley, has been issued.

THE RIGHT HON. E. P. BOUVERIE, M.P., gets £10,000 a year under the will of the late Earl of Radnor.

GENERAL SIR ROBERT HUSSEY VIVIAN, whilst out pheasant-shooting the other day, at Glynn, the seat of his brother, Lord Vivian, was accidentally shot by the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Boscawen, and has lost the sight of one of his eyes.

THE GARTERS vacant by the deaths of Lord Derby and Lord Westminster will be bestowed on Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, G.C.B., and the President of the Council, Earl De Grey.

THE LATE EARL OF DERBY'S BREEDING STUD is to be broken up, and the sires, mares, yearlings, and foals will be brought to the hammer early in the spring.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR has invited tenders for the purchase of 8000 Whitworth rifles, now lying at the Tower.

SIR W. DENISON, Mr. E. Frankland, and Mr. J. C. Morton are gazetted as Commission to inquire into the pollution by sewage of the Tweed, the Clyde, and other rivers in Scotland.

M. DE LESSERPS was married on the 25th ult., at Ismailia. Mgr. Bauer preached on the occasion.

AN ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR last week deposited with Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co., the sum of £1000 for the infirmary for epilepsy and paralysis, Charles-street, Portman-square.

THE REV. MR. STERN, the Abyssinian missionary, recently identified Prince Bouba Workey, a son of King Theodore, exhibiting at Wombwell's menagerie at Dundee.

THE CARRIAGE-WAY ON LONDON BRIDGE was reopened for public traffic on Monday morning.

VISCOUNT HOLMESDALE, M.P., and other principal landowners in the Weald of Kent have remitted to their tenants 10 per cent of their rents, in consequence of the disastrous hop season.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE has sold London Castle, with the extensive estates attached to it, to the Countess of Loudoun. His Lordship receives the same price for it that he gave to the late Marquis of Hastings. This acquisition renders the Countess of Loudoun, who is already possessed of considerable estates adjoining, one of the largest proprietors in the northern division of Ayrshire.

A YOUNG MAN about twenty-five years of age, on Wednesday, committed suicide by jumping from Westminster Bridge into the river. His body was not recovered. Four cases of suicide from the same bridge have occurred within the last two months.

THE POST OF COMMANDANT AT THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, Sandhurst, has become vacant by the death of Colonel Edmund Gilling Hallowell, formerly of the 60th, or King's Royal Rifle Corps. He obtained the Crimean medal and the Legion of Honour. Colonel Hallowell was for some time Deputy Quartermaster-General at Malta.

THE REV. W. L. ONSLOW, Rector of Sandringham, being on the staff of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales during their travels in the East, and serving also in Her Majesty's ship *Ariadne*, has received from the Viceroy of Egypt the order of knighthood of the Medjidie (of the fourth class), and from the Sultan the order of the Osmanli. The Prince of Wales has given Mr. Onslow permission to wear the orders in his presence in his capacity of private chaplain.

A POSTAL CONVENTION has been signed by which the postage for letters from France to England, and vice versa, is reduced from fourpence to threepence, and the weight allowed for a single rate is raised to ten grammes.

THE RAILWAY OVER MONT CENIS has been blocked up, and all communication by that route interrupted for several days, owing to heavy snowstorms.

TWO BRADFORD BUTCHERS named Garforth and Holgate have been sent for two months' hard labour for selling diseased meat.

KAULBACH is engaged in the composition of a picture representing our Saviour driving the speculators and self-seekers out of the Jerusalem Council, as he once did the money-changers out of the temple at Jerusalem.

BELLE BOYD, once known as the Confederate spy, and afterwards as an actress, is now an inmate of the State Lunatic asylum in San Francisco.

CONVICT LABOUR will for the future be employed in the manufacture of boots for the metropolitan police.

AT THE SWINDON CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE, the other day, a farmer gravely argued that, whilst the law existed which fined the farmer if he chastised the boys in his service, the moral condition of the labourer could never be improved.

EIGHT ROMAN CATHOLIC PRELATES have been appointed scrutator, or "tellers," at the Ecumenical Council. Their office is to collect, arrange, present, and register the votes on every subject. The Pope will appoint four Cardinals to replace him at those sittings of the council over which he may be unable to preside in person.

AT CAVAN PETTY SESSIONS two men, M'Mannus and O'Brien, have been remanded on a charge of conspiring to murder the Rev. Mr. Jebb, Protestant Rector of the parish of Stradone. Constable Griffith has been fired at in the same locality. The ball passed through his cap without injuring him.

A GANG OF YOUTHFUL THIEVES, who had taken up their abode in an empty railway arch, and thence sallied forth to prey upon the unsuspecting inhabitants of Dalston-rose, have been broken up, and several of them were, on Tuesday, sentenced at Worship-street to terms of imprisonment.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD has addressed a communication to the managers of all the public hospitals in London inquiring what number of additional patients can be received by them. The object of the inquiry is to ascertain what number of pauper patients can be accommodated, should the famine fever or other circumstances cause additional hospital accommodation to be required.

A WARWICKSHIRE FARMER has sent to Somerset House the following answer to the Board of Trade's request for the statistics of ground crops, acreage, &c.:—"John Bright's instructions to farmers in one of his speeches was, 'not to meddle with figures, but to watch the sunshine and showers at home, and not bother the Government with their affairs.' I will take his advice in this matter.—T. MANN. Radway, 1869."

O'DONOVAN ROSSA, having received the largest number of votes, has been declared duly elected to serve in Parliament for the county of Tipperary. The declaration of the poll, which was made at Clonmel, last Saturday, was received with great enthusiasm by the convict's admirers; and Mr. Peter Gill, a gentleman whose name is known in connection with the occasional enunciation of strongly national sentiments, made a characteristic speech on the occasion.

THE LOUNGER.

MR. SPEAKER has appointed the Reverend Henry White, Chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Savoy, to be his Chaplain, *vice* the Rev. Charles Merivale, who has got something better—the Deanery of Ely, if I remember rightly, worth £1500 a year—and is now the very Reverend Dr. Merivale, and may rise to be a Right Reverend. The new Chaplain was ordained in 1857, and in 1860 was presented to the Queen by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for nomination to the Chaplaincy of her Majesty's Chapel of Savoy—which fact I again notice that I may ask if any of my readers can tell me what the Chancellor of the Duchy has to do with the Royal Chapel of Savoy. The salary of the Speaker's Chaplain is £400 a year, for which he has to perform the not very onerous duty of walking behind Mr. Speaker when he enters the House, and of reading prayers, which takes him about five minutes. The House sits, on the average, one hundred days. The Chaplain receives, then, nearly £4 for his five minutes' work; which is not bad pay. But this is not all. The Speaker's Chaplaincy is almost always a stepping-stone to better things.

There was a rumour abroad last week that Mr. Speaker would, before the meeting of Parliament, resign his office. This rumour, probably, was suggested by the promotion of Mr. Merivale. But the report has been authoritatively contradicted. Mr. Speaker will not retire, or, at all events, has not yet decided that he will. Next year he will be three score and ten. Towards the end of last Session he felt severely the pressure of his heavy duties; the work next Session will certainly not be lighter than that of last. A peerage and a pension of £4000 a year await him to gild his retirement; but still he holds on, preferring, perhaps, to be the first gentleman of England, with place and patronage, the observed of all observers in the Lower House, to being little better than a titled nobody in the Upper. And no wonder; but it is surely tempting Providence, as the Puritans used to say, for a man to cling to the chair after he is seventy years old. There accompanied, of course, the rumour of the Speaker's retirement vaticinations as to his successor. The "favourite" appeared to be Sir John Duke Coleridge. Why he was fixed upon I cannot tell. Until I saw his name mentioned in the papers I had never heard that he aspired to the Speaker's chair; and, remembering that he is only forty-eight years old, that he most likely has a practice twice as lucrative as the Speakership, and that there is a vista opening before him apparently leading to the highest legal honours, I should say that the rumour is a mere canard. Last Session it was understood to be a settled thing that Mr. Brand is to be our next Speaker.

Winter has come upon us with somewhat premature severity. As I rushed into the country by a Midland express-train the other day, through a wild snowstorm blowing across the chalk downs some twenty miles from London, I could not help thinking sadly of the poor at the east end of the metropolis and elsewhere, who, badly housed, ill clothed and fed, and with little or no fire, have to meet such weather as this; and as I thought, theories of political economy, gathered from the *Times* and other papers, with which I had steeled my heart against all appeals for charity, though they but lately had looked quite incontrovertible, were entirely forgotten. And when I had returned to town, and saw on my way home from the station a cluster of pale, sickly, shivering children in their "looped and windowed raggedness," I could not resist dropping a few coppers amongst them. Perhaps they were impostors—perhaps some scoundrelly father or mother was on the watch to seize the pence and expend them in a quart of gin! But perhaps they were not impostors! Ay, there's the rub.

But now for a little talk upon this wide-spread and ever increasing poverty. The people are not poor because the nation is not wealthy. England is the wealthiest nation in the world. Perhaps there never was a nation on the earth's surface so wealthy; though, mind you, we don't know this, nor ever can know it, for there have been wonderful nations in the world—great, powerful, wealthy—of whose history we have no records, except here and there clusters of Cyclopean ruins. However, England is certainly the richest nation in the world now. Mr. Dudley Baxter estimates the income of the United Kingdom in 1857 at £814,119,000. This sum, he tells us, is thus unequally divided:—

8,500	have	£5000	and upwards.
48,800	"	1000	" do.
178,300	"	300	" do.
1,026,400	"	100	" do.
1,497,000	"	60	" do.

Thus 10,961,000 manual labourers have a total of £324,645,000, which, on the average, is about £30 for each worker, or, as near as may be, 11s. 6d. a week. But this is, you will please to mark, *on the average*, and there is something very deceitful in the word average. For example: on the average, twenty people may have a loaf each; but, then, ten may have two loaves, and ten none. So here, Mr. Dudley Baxter calculates that 1,345,000 workers average from £50 to £75 a year, 5,987,000 from £35 to £52, 4,529,000 from £10 10s. to £36; and it is in this last number of four millions and a half that the wretched poverty around us exists. It is not, then, that the nation is not rich, but because the wealth is so unequally distributed, that we have so much poverty ever in our midst; and political economists, who so conclusively show us how the national wealth may be increased, would do well if they would try to solve the vast problem how to get it more equally distributed; and some of them have lately, to their honour, been doing this—witness their efforts to promote the co-operative scheme.

But what are the great landlords doing in this direction? are they trying to redress the inequality of distribution on their estates? On the contrary, they are massing their lands in larger areas. From the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, last edition, I find that in 1861 the land was distributed as under in England and Wales:—

199,373	farms	under	100	acres
57,912	from	100	to	200
20,603	"	200	"	300
9,031	"	300	"	400
4,062	"	400	"	500
2,348	"	500	"	600
2,116	"	600	"	1000
1,132	"	1000	upwards.	

This, it must be allowed, is not a bad distribution, if it could but be kept intact. But, alas! it cannot. Mr. Martin, in his very useful *Statesman's Year-Book*, tells us that from 1851 to 1861, in ten English counties—all that made returns—4016 farms of under 100 acres were amalgamated with other farms. Now, in England and Wales there are fifty-two counties; and if these small farms decreased at the same rate in those ten years in all our counties, the number of these small farms, and small farmers, obliterated was about 20,880; and if the work shall have gone on at the same rate, the number in 1871 will be about 41,760. Nor does this tell the whole tale of the extinction of small farms. These figures do not include farms of 100 acres and upwards. If we could get a return of the number of farms between 100 and 200 acres obliterated, I am afraid we should find it large. I say I am afraid, for I really think that this destruction of small holdings is a very grave fact. Yes, I know that farming on a large scale is more productive than it is on a small scale; and if the increase of our national wealth is the supreme object to be desired, why, then, there is nothing to be said. But is it? I venture to assert that it is not.

A few days ago war between Turkey and Egypt seemed imminent; but the prospect is not so cloudy as it was. The danger has not, though, entirely passed away. I would therefore remind my readers that twice in this century Turkey has attacked Egypt, and both times was disastrously defeated. In 1832 the Sultan Mahmoud II. sent a powerful army against Mehmet Ali. Mehmet sent an equal force, under Ibrahim Pacha, into the field, and the Turks suffered two severe defeats. Ibrahim marched against Constantinople; but here the European Powers interfered, and the Pacha had to return to his own country. In 1840 the Sultan, thinking himself strong enough, renewed the

war; but Ibrahim Pacha almost annihilated the Turkish army; the Turkish fleet revolted to the Egyptians; and the destruction of Turkey seemed imminent. But again the European Powers came to the help of the Sultan. An allied army retook several strongholds from the Egyptians; an Anglo-Austrian fleet bombarded Acre; and Mehmet was once more compelled to yield. These notes from modern history—not available, I dare say, to many of my readers—may be interesting just now.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE ANNUALS.

Mr. Beeton started the first *Christmas Annual*, and thus far we find his the best of the year—speaking, that is, of the Christmas Annual proper. The chief illustrations are exceedingly clever, and "Klepto Mania"—apparently by Mr. Tilloston—is full of humour. In fact, nearly the whole annual is good; though, of course, some things are better than others.

Routledge's Annual contains a good deal of pleasant reading, besides a poem of extreme beauty by Mr. Robert Buchanan. It is entitled "A Blind Man's Love." Mrs. Lynn Linton, Hesba Stretton, Annie Thomas, Mr. W. W. Fenn, and Mr. W. Sawyer are among the contributors. High praise is due to Miss Adelaide Claxton's "Six Stages on the Journey of French Life;" there is a good deal to study in it.

The *Belgravia Annual* is, before all things, *Belgravia*—in a literary sense, I mean. The stories are strong, the pictures are strong, and there is plenty for the money. The best thing in the contents is "Gentle Jack," by the author of "Hirel," which is very nice indeed. "The Power of the Harp," by Mr. Godfrey Turner, is a re-setting in Ingoldsby measure of an old "legend of the Baltic." The "Envoy" is touched in the author's best manner, and is full of grace and pleasant finesse. But, as to the story itself, though this kind of thing may pass just for once in a throng at Christmas, it is clearly bad art to give such a legend such an incongruous setting. Simplicity, the total absence of anything like cleverness or ingenuity, was, above all things, necessary. The manner in which "a legend" of this kind is told should always be naïve—yes, even in burlesque.

Another group of *Household Word* Christmas stories, containing the numbers for 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854, is on my desk. It contains "The Seven Poor Travellers" and some far better stories.

The *Amalgamated Robin Redbreasts* has rather a Dickensy ring with it; but it is the *Christmas Number of Good Words for the Young*, and a capital number it is. There is plenty of matter fit for young people in it; but all of it is as much for old people as young ones, and it is, in fact, a thoroughly good Christmas number. It contains, I should say, about twenty stories and poems, perhaps more. It is not difficult to trace in the writing some of the very best of living pens; but no names are given, at least in my copy, and I shall respect the apparent intention of the editor, and shall not even say who wrote the story of Zacchæus, with which the brochure closes.

And now I come to something different from the usual run of "Christmas numbers." No welcome can be too warm for this, the second number of *Tom Hood's Comic Annual*. If it is almost too good for the money, who is to blame for that? To describe its contents is out of the question; nor can I even give a list of the contributors or the illustrators, so numerous are they. Everybody you would expect to find ranged under Mr. Hood's banner is here, and some others besides. I may mention Mr. Edward Capern; and, as he appears in a capacity new to me (that of a poet), Mr. Frowse. The Editor's "preface" is by no means the least charming part of the work. I confidently predict for this *Annual* an overwhelming success. It is quite different from the usual Christmas Numbers, and should be bought in addition.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mrs. John Wood has made her first appearance at the St. James's in a burlesque by Mr. John Brougham, which was anything but a success at the Princess's in 1861. It has been touched up—at least, a couplet has been devoted to the St. Pancras guardians, another to *Cassell's Magazine*, and a third to Mrs. Beecher Stowe; while a close parody on a well-known scene between Mr. Bancroft and Miss Wilton in "School" has been introduced to suggest freshness, which the burlesque certainly requires. The first scene, in which Mr. Mark Smith, seated on a throne, is a kind of Old King Cole to a party of Red Indians, is spirited enough, and certainly gave the idea that the burlesque was to be a success. But the interest dies away, and the impression left on my mind at the end was that I had seen a patched-up failure, on the whole very well played. Mr. Mark Smith, who appears to be a very useful burlesque actor, sinks into insignificance, as far as character is concerned, after the first scene, and then Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Lionel Brough have it all their own way. Mrs. Wood sang well (though her voice is on the wane), and she dances with some sprightliness yet. When she was quiet she pleased me most. Her energy, however, was best appreciated by the audience, particularly when she imitated, at the very top of her voice, and at the expense of a vast amount of lung power, the hateful hurdy-gurdy girls who once infested the streets. The hurdy-gurdy girls were bad enough; but Mrs. John Wood's imitation was to me distressing. However, the song was twice encored. Mr. Lionel Brough excels in acrobatic feats. He stands on his head and turns head over heels several times on a swing. His make-up was excellent. Miss Everard was funny; but the young lady at the head of the boarding-school maidens too conscious—if not vulgar. The Red-Indian dresses are particularly rich; and I have no doubt that the burlesque will run until Christmas. It is a pity that Mrs. Wood allows a wretchedly vulgar programme, called "The Bill of the Play," to be circulated with her sanction in the theatre. The bad taste of puffing the actors and actresses of the St. James's Theatre must be patent to all the audience; but, not content with this, the compiler of a sad farrago of nonsense indulges occasionally in silly personalities. To my mind, nothing is more offensive than the fun of your witless wag. Besides, the St. James's Theatre, under other managements, earned a reputation for good taste.

Mr. Webster has done well to revive Mr. Boucicault's drama of "The Long Strike" at the Adelphi. It is a very good adaptation of Mrs. Gaskell's "Mary Barton," one of the most powerful of modern tales; and, though replete with situation, is short and sharp. The original cast embraced Mr. and Mrs. Boucicault, Mr. Emery, Mr. Cowper, and the late Mr. Widdicombe. When produced at the Lyceum it was not so successful as it should have been. Mr. Webster now takes the place of Mr. Emery, Mr. J. G. Taylor that of Mr. Boucicault, Mr. Rignold of Mr. Cowper, Mr. Belmore of Mr. Widdicombe, and Miss Furtado of Mrs. Boucicault. Comparisons are in bad taste, so I will merely say that Mr. Webster and Miss Furtado pleased me very much, and that Mr. Belmore astonished me by imitating poor Mr. Widdicombe even to his eccentric falsetto squeak. Now, there is no reason why Mr. Belmore should imitate anyone. In his own line he is so good, and always so original, that I was fairly surprised at the recollection. I am delighted when I see a small part played well. Mr. Moreland's telegraph clerk was in the Lyceum days, and is now at the Adelphi, a very striking and admirable performance. Mr. Boucicault, sick, no doubt, of trial scenes, has ventured to alter the last act of "The Long Strike." Although I am glad to get rid of the trial, I do not think very much of the alteration. Instead of representing the anxiety of the friends of the accused to get hold of Johnny Reilly, the missing witness, Mr. Boucicault shows the anxiety of the sailor to get to the trial in time. A station with the train just off, brings Johnny on to the stage. It is the last train, and the poor fellow has got no money and is left behind, with small chance of getting to Manchester. An enthusiastic engine-driver helps him out of his difficulty, and, in the face of station master, porters, and officials, detaches the engine from some cattle-trucks and whizzes off to Cottonopolis with the exultant train. The engine, I would beg to remark, is the most extraordinary locomotive I ever set eyes

on. The dénouement is singularly weak. Mr. Radley, whom Jim Starkie is supposed to have shot in the back, is not dead after all, and an illegal trial of the accused is held by three magistrates, in Mr. Radley's back dining-room. Under what warrant Jim Starkie is released from prison and is so examined, I will leave the author to explain. Anyhow, Johnny Reilly gives his evidence, and the prisoner is allowed to go free. This three-act drama is, however, well worth seeing.

Mr. Fechter is playing again at the Princess's for a fortnight previous to his departure for America. I am glad of this; for, in spite of certain drawbacks to which I am not blind, there are few English actors who give one such pleasure as Mr. Fechter. Mr. Fechter was brought up in a school of actors; and until our young men can make love with something like passion, and will consent to learn the trick of "tears in the voice," they have no right to sneer at Mr. Charles Fechter. I wish him well in America, and trust that he will come back to England with his fire and enthusiasm still at fever heat. Mr. Fechter's Hamlet is admirable as ever, and Miss Carlotta Leclercq plays Ophelia very gracefully, and has been thoroughly well taught.

I rub my eyes Rip-van-Winkle fashion in astonishment, and find that Mr. Woodin is again opening his "Carpet Bag and Sketch-Book" in London. Mr. Woodin is the most industrious of entertainers, and never tires. But poor Mr. Woodin can no longer skip about at the Adelaide Gallery, since it is now devoted to the coffee-cups of Messrs. Gatti and Monaco; and as to the Polygraphic Hall, it is changed into the Charing-cross Theatre—a word not to be mentioned by the pious admirers of the popular entertainer. So, driven out of his old quarters, Mr. Woodin has put up in the Albert Smith room of the Egyptian Hall, where his friends revel in the luxury of mirrors and gilding, and feast their eyes on some charming pictures by that most industrious of painters, Mr. J. O'Connor. As for Mr. Woodin himself, there is no need for me to say what or how much he can do. He sings and dances, and changes his dress, and ventriloquises, and for two good hours keeps his audience laughing and thoroughly amused. "Age certainly does not wither, nor custom stale" Mr. Woodin's infinite variety. He is as young and energetic as ever.

I hear that Mr. Sothorn plays at Christmas in a new comedy by Mr. H. T. Craven at the Haymarket.

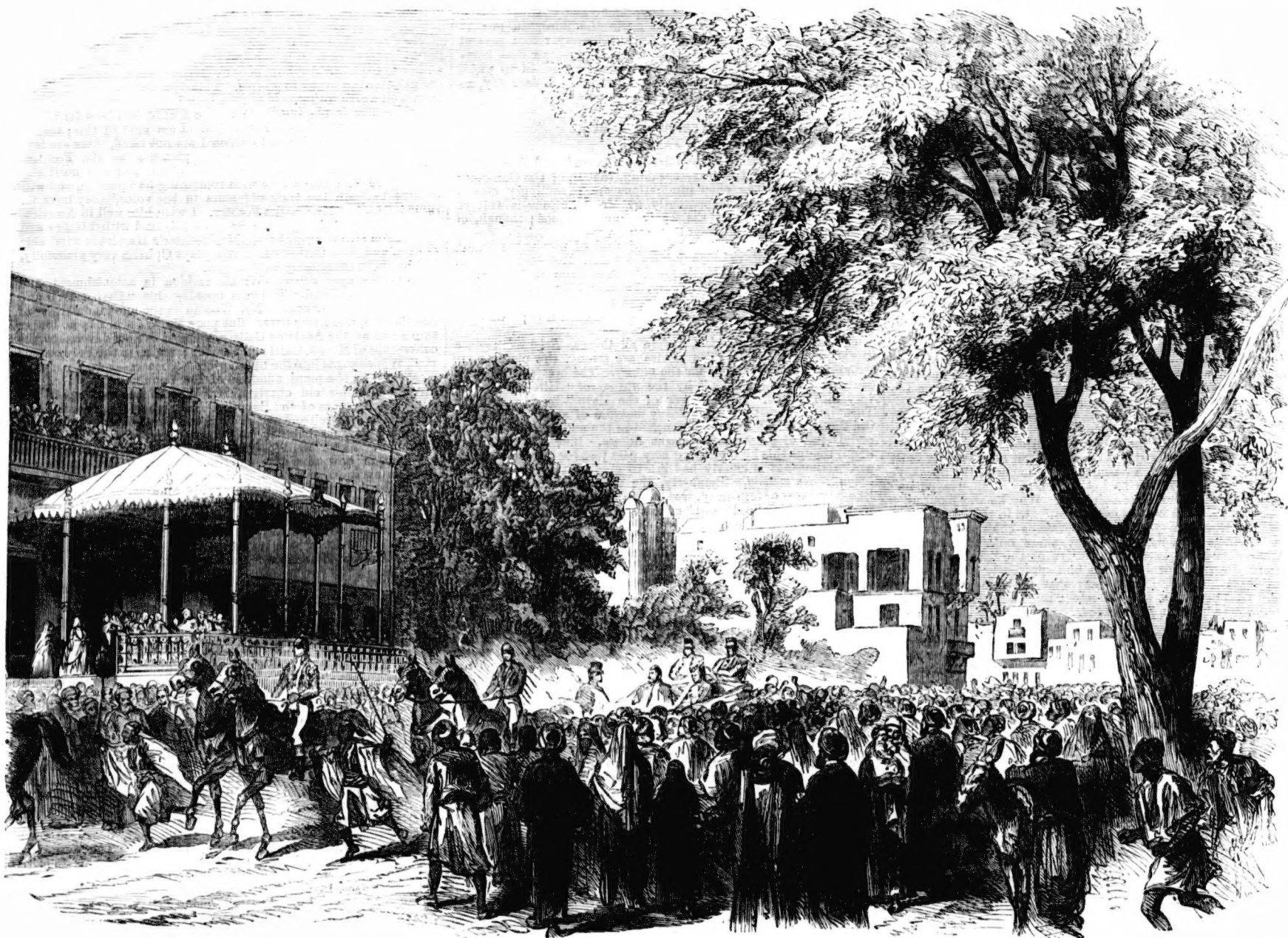
Mr. Andrew Halliday's "Marriage" is underlined at the St. James's.

Mr. F. Robson and Mr. Brinsley Sheridan play in the new burlesque by a Mr. Arthur O'Neill, in rehearsal at the Charing Cross.

A HISTORY OF DOCKYARD REDUCTIONS.

DR. BREWER, M.P. for Colchester, addressing his constituents last week, said that three years ago he had denounced the expenditure in the dockyards and naval stores as being something like infamous. He told them that those great establishments were gigantic national shams, of which the Government dare not give a true and faithful account to the people. Three years ago he had denounced the Government then in power, not only for keeping up a wasteful system of expenditure, but for increasing it; although, in 1864, a Select Committee, consisting of seven Liberals and seven Tories, had, after investigation, unanimously recommended that the dockyards of Deptford and Woolwich should be closed prospectively and as soon as the Government could do it. Lord Palmerston, in consequence of this report, began to reduce the number of dockyard labourers to 18,588. The Tories then came into power, and in five months they raised this 18,588 to 19,334, and by the commencement of the year it had been still further raised to 20,313. In the spring of the following year, 1868, some of the Liberal party formed the "Cave," and the Tories, having then a hope of a little longer vitality, began to reduce the number, first to 19,434, then to 17,294, in July of the same year to 16,128; and in last December, when they knew they could hold office no longer, they, within a day or two of retiring from power, in the midst of the winter, had the absurdity—for it was no more—to reduce it to 15,954. Thus in eleven months they threw 4389 artisans out of employment, pensioning 411 and giving gratuities to seventy-nine. This was the state of things when the Liberal party acceded to power; and when Mr. Childers took charge of the Admiralty he had to feel, in the way it was intended he should feel, the entire force of the precipitancy of the Tory action. Yet during the winter months he never discharged a single dockyard labourer, but took on himself to make the best provision he could make for the large number out of employment through the course taken by his predecessors. When the winter had passed and the spring had come it was his duty to see how he could reduce the number of men to the amount of work he could give them. He found he could give profitable employment to 14,600 labourers; but that would leave him 1361 to deal with. He saw that there were on the books of the establishment 617 out of the 1861 who had a right to a pension by the constant custom of the Government. He therefore pensioned off the 617 men. Of the rest, 666 asked for leave to emigrate; but amongst them were many whom the Tories had thrown out without provision and left as an odium for Mr. Childers to inherit. 187 did not desire to emigrate, and received employment as casual hands, and also actually received gratuities. To prevent demoralisation Mr. Childers saw it was of the utmost consequence to provide profitable work for the 14,600 men whose places he had retained. They now had it on unmistakable evidence—the evidence of the votes—that there was to be a cry got up by the Tory party—the "dockyard labourers' cry"—and there was actually a proposition made to refuse £13,000 of wages, so as to compel a large reduction of hands and make the Government incur the odium of acting in the precipitate way the Tories did. Well, there were three turret-ships which it was absolutely necessary the country should provide to maintain its supremacy; and 1235 men were transferred to full employment in building these turret-ships, the rest having, to use a vulgar phrase, been got rid of with as much kindness and consideration as though Mr. Childers had possessed in his heart and head the intelligence and the desires of every Englishman on the face of the earth.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the silver medal of the institution and a copy of the vote inscribed on vellum were ordered to be presented to Captain James Elyard, of the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia, in testimony of his gallant services in being one of the first to volunteer to go off in the Broadstairs life-boat when she recently saved thirteen of the crew of the ship Frank Shaw, of North Shields, which was wrecked on the Goodwin Sands. The crew of the life-boat had already received for their gallant services on the occasion a reward from the institution, which, with local subscriptions, had amounted to about £3 10s. each man, or about £50 altogether. Rewards to the amount of £202 were also granted to the crews of different life-boats of the society for the following and other gallant services on the occasion of wrecks during gales in the past month:—Dutch brigantine Catharina, five lives saved; brig Watermillcock, of Sunderland, six; Norwegian barque Hannah, of Drobak, nine; brigantine St. Areta, of Santander, eight; barque Medoc, of Bordeaux, seventeen; and brig Dawson, of Newcastle, eight. Various rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Payments, amounting to upwards of £4000, were also ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments, making a total of upwards of £18,444 expended by the institution on its 215 life-boat stations during the eleven months of the present year. It had also during the same period contributed to the rescue of 1016 lives from various shipwrecks. Altogether, the life-boat society had contributed since its establishment to the saving of 18,865 lives from shipwreck. It is hoped that the British public will continue to strengthen the hands of the committee at this stormy period, when its life-boats are engaged day and night in saving life from shipwrecks. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows M. U. had sent a contribution of £50 towards the support of their life-boat at Cleethorpes, on the coast of Lincolnshire. A new life-boat had been sent by the institution to Wells, Norfolk, the Great Eastern Railway Company kindly giving the boat a free conveyance over their line. New life-boat stations were also ordered to be organised at Troon, Ardrossan, and Ballantrae, in Scotland. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life boats on their recent visits to different life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.



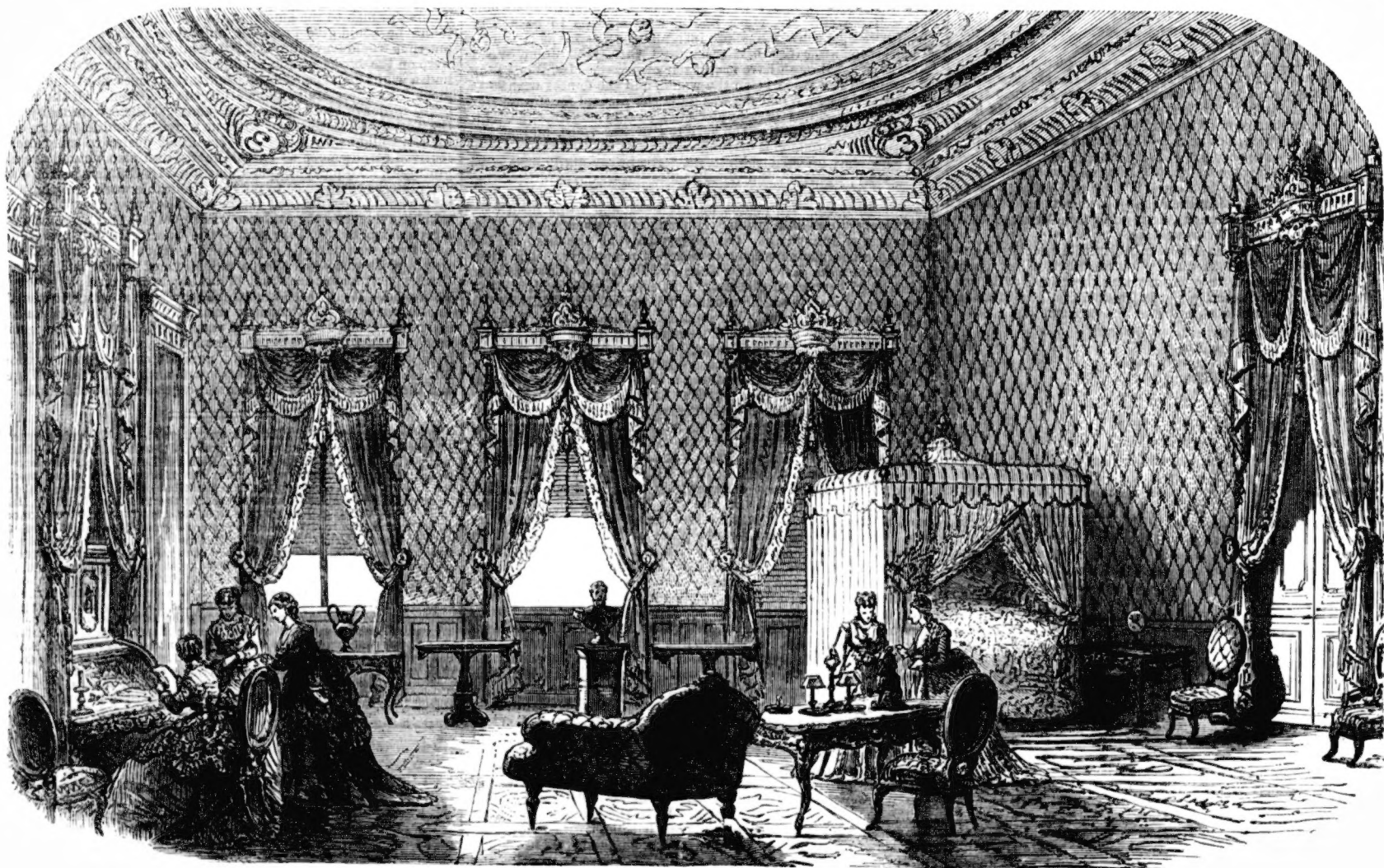
RECEPTION OF THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE IN CAIRO.—(SEE ILLUSTRATED TIMES, NOV. 23.)

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES TO THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

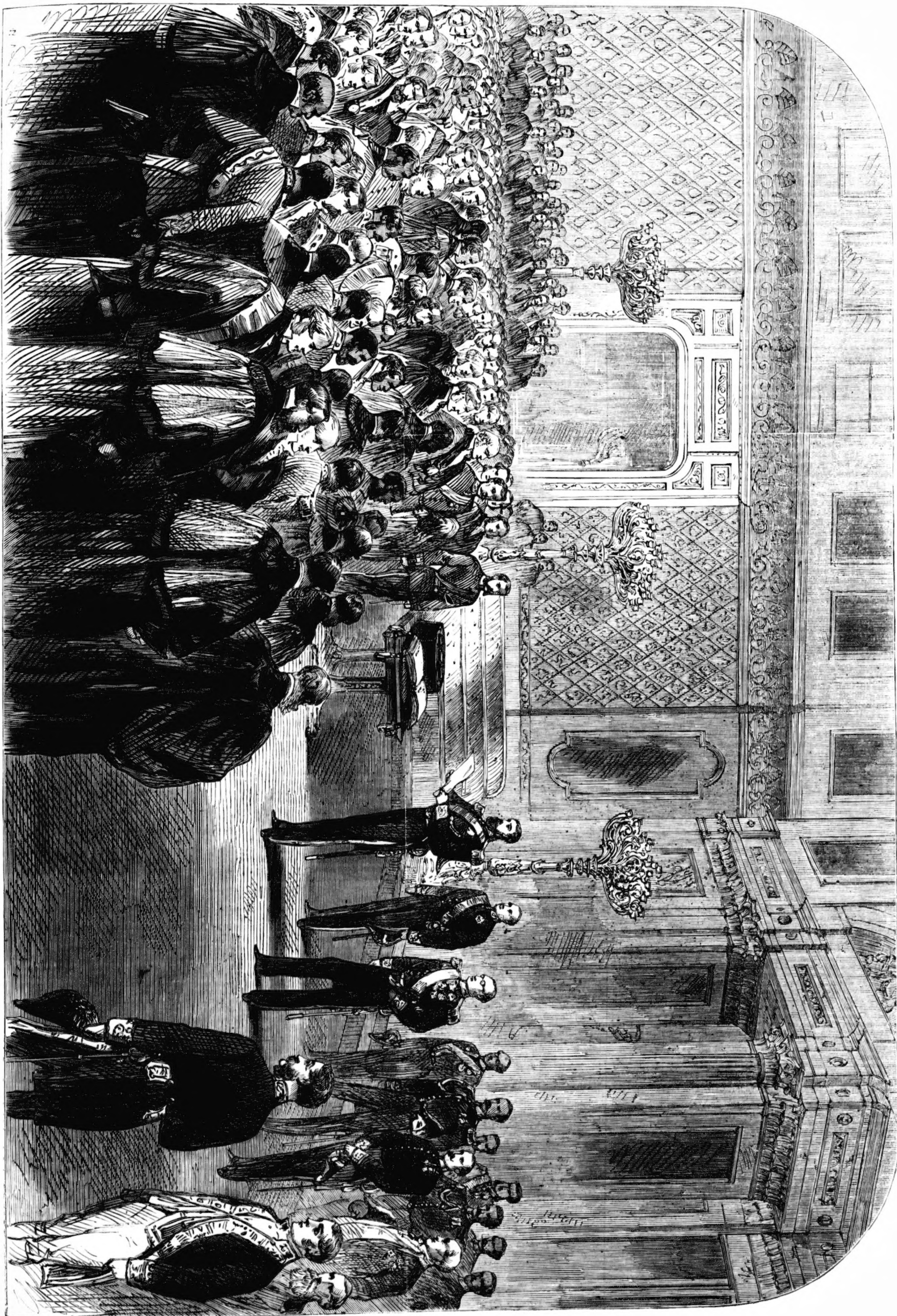
As we mentioned in our last week's Number, the Sovereign and the people of this country united on Thursday week in paying a compliment to the King of the Belgians, which his Majesty appeared to thoroughly appreciate, and which, no doubt, will be highly gratifying to the Belgian nation. Since his accession to the throne of Belgium, Leopold II. has steadily followed in the

footsteps of his illustrious father, and anyone acquainted with that country must know how popular his Majesty is with all classes of his subjects. During the two visits made by our volunteers to Belgium they had an opportunity of witnessing the affectionate loyalty of the people for their constitutional King, and they were afforded repeated proofs of his more than friendly sentiments towards England and Englishmen. It was but natural, therefore, that on the occasion of his Majesty's visit to the Queen

our municipal bodies and the volunteers should avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of testifying their respectful regard for the King of the Belgians. Scarcely had the intended visit of his Majesty become generally known when means were taken to have addresses prepared, and on learning this the Queen graciously expressed her desire that they should be presented to him in one of the state apartments of Buckingham Palace. The civic authorities of London lost no time



THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE'S BEDROOM IN THE PALACE OF GHISEB.—(SEE PAGE 365.)



RECEPTION OF THE NATIONAL ADDRESS TO THE KING OF THE BELGIANS AT DUCKINGHAM PALACE: HIS MAJESTY READING HIS R. P. M.

in associating themselves in the movement to do honour to the King; and the municipalities of the United Kingdom, to the number of considerably over a hundred, almost immediately gave in their willing adhesion to the proposal thus sanctioned by the metropolitan Corporation. In addition, the Lord Mayor invited the King to honour the City with his presence at a grand dinner in the Mansion House. The addresses were accordingly presented, and the banquet was given accordingly, under circumstances which must be satisfactory to everyone concerned. One of the addresses was from various bodies, and the other came from the commanding officers of volunteers. It is almost superfluous to say that the gentlemen who signed the latter could have had no objection whatever to the presentation of the former; but they properly felt that, after repeated acts of kindness by the King towards the volunteers, it was only becoming that there should be a special address emanating from the recognised heads of the volunteers.

It had been arranged that a procession should go up with the general address, and that the metropolitan portion of the processionists should set out from the Mansion House. Accordingly, at half-past ten o'clock, the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Causton, Mr. Sheriff Vallentin, Mr. Under-Sheriff A. J. Baylis, and Mr. Under-Sheriff Crossley were in attendance at the residence of the chief magistrate to receive the executive committee. Lord Napier of Magdala, Alderman Sir J. Lawrence, Alderman Cotton, Alderman Gibbons, Mr. P. P. Gordon, and other members of the committee arrived soon afterwards. The Lord Mayor met the company in the reception-room, and shortly before eleven o'clock the procession left the Mansion House. A large crowd had assembled to see it set out. The Lord Mayor went in his dress carriage, which was drawn by four horses, and with him was Lord Napier of Magdala. The Sheriffs had their state carriages, also drawn by four horses, and a line of carriages not much short of a quarter of a mile in length followed those of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. The route taken was that by Mansion House street, Cannon-street, St. Paul's churchyard, Ludgate-hill, Fleet-street, the Strand, Charing-cross, Cockspur-street, and Pall-mall. Opposite Marlborough House the City portion of the procession was met by the carriages of the provincial municipal authorities, who in very many cases were attended by their sword and mace bearers carrying civic insignia. The procession, when completely formed, turned into the Mall, and thus approached the main entrance of Buckingham Palace. A very large crowd had congregated in the Mall, and as the carriages approached the palace the scene was sufficiently attractive and stately to elicit the warm approval of the spectators. Most of the horses were bedecked with tricolour rosettes, and the coachmen and footmen wore scarfs in the Belgian colours. At a quarter to twelve o'clock the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, followed by the other gentlemen who came to present the address, passed through the grand hall, up the state staircase, through the promenade gallery, and into the ball-room, where the King was to receive them.

At half-past eleven o'clock the King of the Belgians came from Claridge's Hotel, and was received at the garden entrance of the palace by Viscount Sidney, Lord Chamberlain; Lieutenant Colonel Sir J. Coxell, Master of the Queen's Household; and Colonel Stephenson, C.B., Field Officer of Brigade in Waiting. The guard of honour of the second battalion of the Grenadier Guards was at the entrance on his Majesty's arrival. At a few minutes past twelve o'clock Lord Torrington, the Lord in Waiting to the Queen, specially appointed to attend the King, conducted his Majesty through the picture-gallery and dining-room into the ball-room. The King was followed by the Belgian Minister and the Secretaries of Legation, and by the members of his suite. Surrounded by these gentlemen, who were all in their official uniform, his Majesty took his place on a dais at the end of the apartment. He wore the uniform of a General in the Belgian army, with the star and ribbon of the Garter, and the star of the Order of Leopold. The magnificent ball-room presented a grand and striking scene at this moment. At the end opposite to where the King and his staff had taken up their position, and along both sides of the apartment for about half its length, the sword bearers and mace-bearers of numerous Corporations stood at short distances. Mayors in their official robes, and gentlemen in plain clothes, but wearing Belgian scarfs, medals, and rosettes, stood in the centre of the room, and immediately in front of a reserved space that led up to the dais were the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London in their scarlet robes, Lord Napier of Magdala and Lord Seaton, both in military uniform, and a number of the Lieutenancy of the city of London, also in uniform. Lines of gentlemen wearing the Belgian colours stood in front of the benches, which rise in treble rows at each side; but as the ball-room affords ample space for 1000 people, and as there were not more than between 400 and 500 then present, it was not in reality half full, though, owing to the manner in which the company had grouped themselves, and in which the corporate officials were arranged, the attendance seemed larger than it really was.

The King having bowed to the deputation, and signified his readiness to receive the address, the Lord Mayor said he had to state to his Majesty that the address about to be presented to him was a truly national one. It was signed by upwards of 300 Mayors, Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs of counties, and other representative men. There was, he believed, but one omission of a Mayor's signature from the petition, and that had been caused by the absence from England of the Mayor of Manchester, who was attending the opening of the Suez Canal. He would call on Captain Mercier to read the address. Captain Mercier then read the following address:—

TO THEIR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.

May it please your Majesties,—We the Lord Mayors and Lord Provosts, Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs of counties, the Mayors and other chief magistrates of municipalities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whose names are hereto attached, desire to avail ourselves of the opportunity which the visit of your august Majesties to our most gracious Majesty affords us of offering to you, on behalf of the counties, cities, and boroughs which we, in our official capacities, represent, a cordial expression of welcome to this country. The hospitality accorded by the people of your Majesties' dominions to our countrymen in general, and more especially to our volunteers, who have on several occasions had the honour of being received in Belgium as distinguished guests, will ever remain a pleasing memory to the British people. It is in such cordial expressions of esteem and friendship between the peoples of civilised nations that we recognise the strongest guarantee of peace and prosperity. We beg also to offer our assurances that throughout the communities which we have the honour of representing there exists the kindest and most distinguished esteem for the august persons of your Majesties, for your many virtues, for the wise and beneficent rule that has distinguished your reign, and for the close relationship which we are pleased to know connects you with our beloved Queen. Earnestly praying that you may live long to reign over the free and enlightened people which rejoices to call you its Sovereigns, we have the honour to be your Majesties' most humble and devoted servants.

The Lord Mayor then said:—

May it please your Majesty, there is nothing I can add to the address, except to state that our object is not in any sense a political one, but simply an expression of that national good feeling which we hope will always exist between the two nations.

The King, descending from the dais, and advancing to within a few steps of the Lord Mayor, read the following reply:—

My Lord Mayor, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—Your address on this occasion of my visit to your Sovereign touches me deeply, and I would find tender to the committee, with whom, under the presidency of your Lordship and of your predecessor in office, it originated, as well as to the Lords Lieutenant of counties, the Mayors, and town and borough magistrates of the United Kingdom who have cordially joined in it, my warmest and most heartfelt thanks for so gracious a proof of their kind feelings towards me. It is with unalloyed satisfaction that I see the strength and cordiality of the ties which bind England and Belgium to each other thus affirmed by the English people, through those who represent them on this occasion; nor can I find words sufficiently strong to express my sense of this spontaneous demonstration of goodwill, which, added to the constant kindness of your gracious Queen, for whom I ever entertain—if I may so say—a truly filial affection, and to the sympathies of the many eminent men who have allowed me to succeed to a part at least of the friendship they bore to my father, finds a cordial response in my heart. Devoted as I am to my own land and to its institutions, the desire of the Belgian people to cultivate and increase

their friendly intercourse with you greatly rejoices me. In you they behold a great example of political wisdom and moral energy which have led to the firm establishment of constitutional government—that most happy alliance between power and liberty. In honouring you they honour a people who have known how to combine the blessings of freedom with those of order and good government, and who, having by indomitable energy and sound principles achieved an immense material prosperity for themselves, only desire to see other nations in possession of equal advantages, and to assist in preserving the peace of the world. My Lords and Gentlemen,—To the pleasure which I have derived from the visits of your countrymen you have been pleased to add the gratification I feel at this moment at the cordial manifestation of your feelings towards me. If it is given to me during my reign to justify in some measure these too-flattering tokens of your kindness, the encouragement which I received in this country, as well as the example it gives me, will have greatly contributed to that result. Whatever may be the success which Providence may grant to my intentions, and my efforts, I beg you to be convinced that your wishes for the happiness and peace of all nations will always find an echo in my heart, and that within the narrow limits of my influence nothing will at any time be dearer to me than to assist towards their realisation. I pray accept the warm thanks which I again offer to you for the affectionate address presented to me; and believe in my sincere wishes for the prosperity of this great and generous empire, which nobody loves and admires more than I do.

General cheering followed the reading of his Majesty's reply. The King then heartily shook hands with the Lord Mayor, and his Lordship presented the Sheriffs and several of the Aldermen. The King then looked at the splendid volume in which a copy of the address to their Majesties and of the names attached thereto are inscribed on vellum leaves. The binding is of imperial purple morocco. On one cover are the arms of Belgium, embossed in coloured mosaics, on a ground stamped with the Royal crown and the initials of their Majesties. On the other cover are the arms of England. The two richly-gilt clasps by which the volume is fastened have chased on them the monogram of the King and the date of the presentation. The pages are elaborately illuminated. The silver casket which is to contain the address itself, and which, it is said, will cost 300 gs., is not yet finished; but it is being manufactured by Messrs. Howell and James, who have supplied the committee with the volume just referred to. Having spent a few minutes in conversation with Lord Napier and the other members of the committee, the King retired, amid loud and prolonged cheering.

At half-past one o'clock the gentlemen who were to present the address from the volunteers began to arrive, and by a quarter before two there were from 700 to 800 volunteer officers assembled in the ball-room. Every variety of costume known in the volunteer service was to be seen on this occasion, and all branches of the volunteer service were represented, when the King, attended by his suite, again entered the apartment. The colonels formed a line across the room at some distance from the dais. Midway in this line were Lord Elcho, chairman of the executive committee; Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, commanding the Hon. Artillery Company; Colonel Thomson; and Colonel Wilkins n., hon. secretary of the committee. Behind the colonels, for half the length of the room and in front of the benches on each side, stood the other field officers—the captains and the lieutenants. When the King entered from the dining-room he was received by Lord Elcho, with whom he shook hands. His Majesty then bowed to the assembled officers, who replied by cheering and striking the floor with their swords.

Lord Elcho, having advanced a pace or two, said he had the honour of informing his Majesty that, though the time for communicating with commanding officers in the provinces had been so short, the address had already received 370 signatures, and before it was placed permanently in the hands of his Majesty a very great many more would be attached to it. Many of the commanding officers whom his Majesty then saw before him had come from distant parts of the country to be present at the presentation of the address. He and the other members of the committee were proud to say that as honorary Colonels of volunteer corps the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, and Prince Teck had expressed their desire to attach their signatures to the address; and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had requested the committee to add the name of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Lord Elcho then read the address, to which his Majesty replied in cordial terms, expressing the great gratification it afforded him to meet the British volunteers again in their own country. The King then descended from the dais and again shook hands with Lord Elcho. He then shook hands with Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, Colonel Thomson, Colonel Wilkins n., and Colonel Walmisley, and expressed his acknowledgments to the executive committee. His Majesty passed along the line of colonels, and each of the gallant gentlemen was presented to him by Lord Elcho. After conversing very graciously with the officers for some time, his Majesty retired amid a salute similar to that with which he had been greeted on his entrance. When his Majesty had left the room, Lord Elcho said he had been commanded by him to express to the volunteer officers his very great satisfaction with the address they had presented to him, and the manner in which they had assembled to present it. The King was very much touched by the way in which the representatives of the volunteer force had approached him, and the sentiments they had expressed towards him and his Queen. The committee felt thankful to the commanding officers, and he thought the whole force had reason to congratulate themselves on the proceedings in connection with the address. Loud cheers followed these remarks. The officers then left the palace.

EACH OF THE WIDOWS of the four engineers who were killed in the explosion on board the gun-boat Thistle will receive the maximum pension of £50 a year, and allowances will be made to each of the children of £12 a year. Each of the widows of the stokers will receive a gratuity equal to a year's pay. The other cases are under consideration.

TWENTY-SEVEN RATEPAYERS of ST. PANCRAS have requested the papers to publish the following extract from the visitors' book at the St. Pancras infirmary:—"We, the undersigned ratepayers, having visited the wards of the infirmary described in the public press as pestilential and filthy, are astonished to find the whole of the wards visited by us presented an appearance of cleanliness and comfort; the ventilation extremely good and plentiful. Time, between half-past eight and half-past ten."

THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.—Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, has been addressing his constituents at Deal. The hon. gentleman did not pretend to disguise that the Irish land question was surrounded by difficulties of some magnitude. He maintained that many of the demands which had been made were such as no just and wise Government could grant. The Administration would deal with Ireland in a large-handed, liberal spirit; but it would, at the same time, be understood that a limit must be placed to the teachings of the seditious press, and that any attempt at insurrection would be firmly put down.

THE JUDGES' BILLS in connection with the late election assizes are being severely taxed by the Treasury. In one case a charge of ss. 4d. as gratuities to railway servants for carrying luggage has been objected to. Another Judge was asked for vouchers for his railway fares. He replied that he had obeyed the law, and given up the tickets to the guard when they were demanded. It came out in a recent trial in the Court of Queen's Bench that Mr. Justice Wille's expenses at Tamworth included a charge of 5s. 1d. for dishes, which the Treasury disallowed. A charge of 2s. for repainting the mace seems to have met with a similar fate.

THE SHIP AT GREENWICH HOSPITAL SCHOOLS.—On Wednesday Mr. Spillman, auctioneer, disposed of the well-known model corvette in the grounds of the Greenwich Hospital Schools. There were not many bidders present; but, as the hull, masts, ropes, chains, &c., had been put up for sale in separate lots, there was fair competition, and ultimately the whole of the vessel and its fittings, &c., was knocked down for about £120. The hull itself realised £39. The name of the vessel is the *Fame*, but the boys of the school call her familiarly the *Never Wag*! She was, however, a great favourite with them. The *Fame* was built on a brick foundation, where she has rested since 1837, the Admiralty authorities of that period having made her a present to the institution for the use and education of the boys. She was fully rigged in all her parts as perfect as a sailing ship, having two spacious decks—lower and upper—and carrying sixteen guns, 9-pounders. The reason given for her being dismantled and sold is that she had become rotten and "unseaworthy" by the influences of time and weather, and certainly her appearance now goes far to prove such an assertion, as she is in some places tumbling to pieces. Whether or not another vessel will supply her place remains to be seen; but it is feared that Greenwich will lose one of its attractions, and the schoolboys one of their instructors.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN AND THE BISHOP-ELECT OF EXETER.

ON the 11th ult. Dr. Temple wrote to Dr. Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln, requesting him to let him have the services of one of his examining chaplains, being a personal friend of his own—the Rev. Dr. Benson, Master of Wellington College—at his first ordination. Dr. Wordsworth, in his reply consenting to the request, strongly urged Dr. Temple to make some public declaration of his faith before his consecration. To this request Dr. Temple returned the following reply:—

"Rugby, Nov. 26, 1869.

"My Lord,—I did not answer your letter at once, because the extraordinary kindness, and even tenderness, which inspires it throughout made me desire to reconsider one more what I had often considered already, and to bring myself if I could, to a different conclusion about my duty from that which I had previously formed. But all consideration only brings me back to this—that the one safe rule for me to follow is the law of the Church of England. While I am neither refusing to say or do what the law does not require, I am on safe ground; and the responsibility lies with the law, and not with me. The moment I step beyond these limits I take the responsibility on myself, and I cannot shift it; and, whatever ill consequences may follow, the blame is mine. It is true, my Lord, that what you propose is studiously, generously moderate. But to concede it is to concede the whole principle. And, while I am quite sure that very few indeed would be satisfied with what you propose who are not in their hearts tolerably well satisfied already, I am sure, too, that, were I to agree, I should only lay myself open to fresh demands to which I could no longer return the one sufficient answer that I was keeping strictly within the limits of the law of the Church of England. The examples that your Lordship sets before me have been present to my mind ever since I received your letter. If this were a question of sacrificing my own feelings to the good or comfort of others, such examples would be overwhelming. But the question is not one of feeling, but of duty; and, if these examples are to aid in deciding what that duty is, I cannot forget that the same St. Paul who made himself, as you remind me, 'all things to all men,' yet on another occasion, and that, too, when his conduct must have given the deepest pain to many devout Christians, and probably kept not a few religious Jews out of the Church altogether, notwithstanding, tells us that 'he gave place by subjection, not for an hour.' It would be simply presumptuous in me to say what an Apostle would do if he stood where I stand now. I should not, indeed, venture to quote the example of the Apostles at all, if you had not first quoted it to me. But I am quite sure that no Apostle would do what he believed to be plainly wrong. My Lord, I have a real reverence for your character; I cannot adequately express my sense of the kindness of your letter; but in this matter I am doing my duty in God's sight to the best of my ability, and when I say that, I am sure that you will not press me further, but rather pray that, if I am wrong, I may have clearer light and firmer strength.—Yours gratefully, F. EXON (Elect)."

"The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lincoln."

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

AN important meeting was held on Monday afternoon, at the Lodge of St. John's College, Cambridge, for the purpose of considering the question of the abolition of University tests. It was intentionally confined to the masters and fellows or ex-fellows of colleges, and University or college officers. Of these upwards of sixty were present. Thirty-five years ago the present Bishop of St. David's, then Mr. Thirlwall, Fellow of Trinity College, expressed his opinion of a similar measure in a weighty passage which was quoted by the Master of Trinity:—"For my part, I am not one of those, if there are any such, who only consider this measure as one of policy, or of liberality, or of justice, but care little about its operation. I heartily wish that, if carried, it may have the effect of attracting many Dissenters to receive a University education. I wish it not for their sakes only but for our own. I think the substantial interests of the University, literature and science, morality and religion, would all gain by such an accession to our numbers. This belief is more than a vague surmise. It is grounded on facts which no candid observer can dispute; it is grounded on experiment, which, though limited, is applicable as far as it goes. All observation and all analogy lead us to expect that the sons of Dissenters of the middling class—and it is such alone that we have to look for here—would add strength to that part of our students which we desire to see growing till it absorbs all the rest; to that part which includes the quiet, the temperate, the thoughtful, the industrious—those who feel the value of their time and the dignity of their pursuits. Such Dissenters we have had, and have now among us. I wish we had more of them. I should think the advantage of their presence cheaply purchased by any share of our endowments, which, if all were thrown open to competition, they would be able to obtain." The experience of the last five-and-thirty years has abundantly verified all the Bishop's assertions and anticipations. That the sentiments he then expressed are gaining ground in the University was proved by the presence at the discussion to-day of three heads of houses, nine professors, and fifty others, who are either resident fellows or ex-fellows, college tutors, assistant tutors, or lecturers, or the holders of University or college offices. It will be impossible for anyone hereafter to assert in the House of Commons that the question of the abolition of tests is one to which the University of Cambridge is indifferent.

The Master of St. John's was in the chair. The following resolution, proposed by the Master of Trinity and seconded by the venerable Professor Sedgwick, was carried unanimously:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the time has come for settling the question of University tests; that the mode in which this question is dealt with in the permissive bill introduced by Sir J. Coleridge is open to grave objections, and that any measure designed to effect such a settlement should include an enactment that no declaration of religious belief or profession shall be required of any person upon obtaining a fellowship or as a condition of its tenure.

There can be no doubt, as the Master of Trinity pointed out, that the practical result of a permissive bill would be the perpetuation of sectarianism and the aggravation of religious animosity. The second resolution, proposed by the Master of Christ's, seconded by Professor Maurice, and, like the first, carried unanimously, was as follows:—

That a representation be drawn up and presented by a deputation to the Prime Minister embodying the resolution just passed; that a committee be appointed to draw up such a representation, consisting of the Master of St. John's, the Master of Trinity, the Master of Christ's, Professor Sedgwick, Professor Maurice, the University Librarian, Mr. Ferrers, Mr. Porter, and Mr. Phear; and that the representation, when drawn up, be circulated for signature among all masters, resident fellows or ex-fellows of colleges, or officers of the University or of any college.

It was strongly the feeling of the meeting that any measure for the abolition of tests should be made a Government measure. The proceedings terminated by a vote of thanks to the Master of St. John's.

AN UNFORTUNATE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.—All is not *couleur de rose* in the life of a newspaper correspondent in Dalmatia. Herr Louis Hantur, artist and special correspondent for a Leipzig illustrated journal, was surprised, on Oct. 28, while sketching the ruins of a village burned by the Austrians the day before, by a numerous band of insurgent Boches. These semi-barbarians, not content with robbing their unfortunate victim, cut off his ears, and, according to the Turkish custom in such cases, thrust them into his pockets. Herr Hantur has returned to Vienna, and intends to claim an indemnity from the Austrian Government.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR OYSTERS.—The Paris papers say that, since the price of oysters has become fabulous, a new shell-fish has been produced at the Halle, which has attained great popularity, and not only answers the same purpose as an oyster, but is in some respects an improvement on the ruinous mollusc. The new shell-fish is the "palourde"; it is a bivalve smaller than the oyster, and of a more elliptical form; it is sold at sixpence the litre, being thus within the reach of modest purses. It can be eaten like the oyster, but has this advantage over our old friend—that it can be dressed like the mussel with the most satisfactory results.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE AND DOG SHOWS.

THE twenty-first annual exhibition of fat stock, poultry, &c., was opened for judging only, on Saturday last, at Bingley Hall, Birmingham. All parts of England and the far north of Scotland are well represented, as usual, and her Majesty and the Prince of Wales are among the exhibitors. The total number of entries is 2879, and about 1900 have been awarded in prizes. Shorthorns, Devons, and Herefords are all well represented this year, and the new form of cattle disease has operated only partially in curtailing some of the entries. Her Majesty sends from the Home Farm, Windsor, three entries of cattle and four of pigs, taking a third prize in the Hereford heifers in a neat and well-proportioned animal, Duchess of Roxburghe, which fails to get higher honours because of its size. In the class for Hereford steers and for Devon oxen her Majesty again competes, but without success. In class 33, for pigs, the Windsor farm is more fortunate, a first prize being awarded to a splendid pen of three fat pigs aged under fifteen months. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales sends a good specimen of a Highland ox and a pen of Southdown wethers, but in neither case does Sandringham win even a third prize. This fact is a fair test of the excellence of the stock shown in these classes, as it takes some beating to distance the well-fed stock of both the Royal farms. The prize for Hereford oxen is taken by a prime steer, with a coat like silk and all the points of a prize animal. It is shown by Mr. William Heath, Ludham, Norwich. The prizes in the cattle classes go chiefly to midland and south-western counties. Mr. Brogden, M.P., of Ulverston, is an unsuccessful exhibitor of shorthorns. Colonel Towneley, of Towneley, near Burnley, carries off first prize in shorthorn heifers with his Thistledown, a prime animal bred by Mr. D. Ainslie, of Costerton. The sheep are not so numerous as usual, but have suffered no diminution in point of quality. The first prize for Shropshires is taken by Lord Chesham. Pigs are less numerous than last year, but on the whole a good show. The highest honours of the show have been borne off by a magnificent shorthorn, bred and exhibited by the Right Hon. the Earl of Aylesford. It was much admired, and took the first prize for shorthorn steers under three years and three months; the £20 prize for the best shorthorn of any class; £15 because bred by the exhibitor; the society's gold medal, valued at £20; the president's prize, £25; and the Birmingham innkeepers' prize, 25s. The second in its class, Little Wonder, shown by Mr. Rowland Wood, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, was not far behind the other; and the pair were undoubtedly two of the finest animals in the whole exhibition. In shorthorn cows the first prize was taken by Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart., of Wallington, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, M.P., Wantage, Berks, a large exhibitor, took first prize for shorthorn steers over three years and three months. Herefords, though not a rich class, on the whole contained some very fine specimens, and the first prize for oxen over three years was carried off by a very choice animal, having all the points of a prize ox—shown by Mr. William Heath, Ludham Hall, Norwich. In aged Devon oxen Mr. Walter Farthing, Bridgewater, took first prize. The class for steers not over three years was headed by Mr. C. Hambro, M.P., Blandford, Dorset. Mr. Farthing is a large prize-taker in the Devon class. Of longhorns there were only six entries. Sir John Harper Crewe, Bart., Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, took second honours for oxen. The Scotch polled oxen were represented by three huge animals of almost elephantine proportions. The first-prize taker was Mr. James Stephen, Conglass, Inverary. The West Highland oxen were eight entries, and fine and strong specimens of their class. Captain Gunter, The Grange, Wetherby, Yorkshire, took first, and Messrs. J. and W. Martin, Aberdeen, second prize. The classes of sheep were not so numerous as at several previous shows, but the quality was excellent. Leicesters and Shropshires were represented by some unusually fine animals. Lord Berners, Keythorpe Hall, Leicester, took the first prize for fat wethers under twenty-two months. Cotswolds (four entries) were much admired by connoisseurs. Sir John Holt, Osleworth Park, Wootton-under-Edge, took first prize. In Southdowns, the highest honours were carried off by the Right Hon. Lord Walsingham, Merton Hall, Thetford, Norfolk, who took both first and second prizes. Lord Sondes, of Elmham Hall, Thetford, was third. In the Shropshires, one of the best classes in point of number and quality, the first prize was allotted to the Right Hon. Lord Chesham, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks. An extra prize of 10s., given by Mr. C. N. Newdegate, M.P., also fell to this pen. Lord Chesham took second prize in the same class. The pigs were not so large a class as last year.

The poultry were, as usual, in great force, there being no less than 2010 entries. Among the exhibitors were—the Duke of Sutherland, the Countess of Dartmouth, the Countess of Aylesford, Lord and Lady Bagot; the Hon. Charles Fitzwilliam Wentworth, Woodhouse, Rotherham; the Ladies Fitzwilliam, Harrowden House, Wellingborough; the Hon. H. W. Fitzwilliam, M.P., Rotherham; Colonel Archibald Impey, Iretton House, Cheltenham; and the Hon. Miss Verney, Kington House, Warwick.

The National Dog Show at Curzon Hall this year attracted a large competition from all parts of the country. There are 757 entries, 491 being sporting and 266 non-sporting dogs. Lord Roslyn is president, and Viscount Curzon vice-president for the year. The fox-terriers number no less than 115 entries, and the class was said by the judges to be the best ever exhibited in Birmingham. The fortunate first-prize taker, who carries off the honours for the best bitch, in spite of so keen a competition, is Mr. Peter Pilgrim's Gem, Shelford, Notts. Mr. John Henson's Ruby, another Nottinghamhound, is second. The chief packs are represented here by picked animals. Several in the class are highly commended. Bloodhounds are another specially good class, there being eleven dogs and six bitches. In the dogs, Regent, belonging to Mr. C. E. Holford, Ware, Herts, takes first prize; and in the bitches the chief rank is assigned to Matchless, shown by the same gentleman. Deerhounds dogs have twelve entries, and the first prize falls to Mr. Donald Cameron, of Lochiel, Fort William. Derbyshire takes first prize in the bitches, awarded to Mr. John Wright's Braie, a fine young hound ten months old. Greyhound dogs: first prize, Mr. Joseph Trevor, Lichfield; bitches: first, Mr. Shore, Rochdale. There are 104 entries in the pointer classes, and some splendid dogs shown. In the champion class for large sized dogs Mr. S. Wrigley's Rock (Oldham) is first. Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, Ipsley Court, Warwickshire, takes first for champion bitches and the prizes for champion (medium) dogs and bitches. In the champion setters Mr. C. Russell Rogerson, Liverpool, is first. There are seventy-eight setters, fifty retrievers, and seventy-three spaniels, most of these classes being of high quality. Of non-sporting dogs the mastiffs, perhaps, command most attention, there being twenty-nine of them. The St. Bernard breed number twelve entries. In the rough-coated class the Rev. J. C. Macdonald, West Kirby, Cheshire, takes first prize; and in the smooth-coated is equally successful. The fancy breeds are here in an almost endless variety, from the tiny toy terrier to the Dandie Dinmont. The success of the dog show is established beyond doubt.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY continues to make slow progress, and sanguine hopes are now entertained that, by the exercise of great care, the most rev. prelate may ultimately recover.

SOUTHWAICK ELECTION.—In addition to Mr. Labouchere, Sir S. Waterbury, Sir F. Lytton, and Mr. Odger, a fifth Liberal candidate, in the person of Mr. Robert Coningsby, offers himself to the electors of Southwark. Desiring to abolish and not to perpetuate caste, Mr. Coningsby does not appeal to the working classes, but to the general body of electors. At the same time, as having been a journeyman engineer, he professes to have an intimate acquaintance with the wants and wishes of the working men. Colonel Boreford, who is described as a large employer of labour in Southwark, has yielded to the request of the Conservative party and will become a candidate for the representation of the borough. At the last general election Mr. Alderman Cotton, the Conservative candidate, was more than 3400 votes below Mr. Layard, who was second on the poll. Mr. Bradlaugh has retired.

Literature.

Tales of Old Travel. Re-narrated by HENRY KINGSLEY, F.R.G.S. London: Macmillan and Co.

It is not a far-fetched metaphor, and scarcely an exaggeration to say that Mr. Henry Kingsley turns whatever he touches to gold: at all events, he manages to extract real "nuggets" from what, in other hands, would seem but ordinary clay. Here we have a series of "Tales of Old Travel," beginning with the adventures of the Poli of Venice and ending with the foundation of our Australian empire, on every page of which there are to be found little—and sometimes big—specks of gold for those who have the capacity to gather them, as Mr. Kingsley has had the capacity to pick them out of the masses of dry detail and technical description which he has, as it were, "boiled down" for us, extracting the essence of many long-winded stories that few readers would care to pore over for themselves. The result is a volume of extremely interesting sketches, written in a lively and amusing style, but withal, as we have intimated, sprinkled with innumerable rich gems of thought and pungent remark. The book might be called "The Romance of Discovery," for it is with the romantic aspects of travelling that Mr. Kingsley deals. He takes care, however, to convey a large measure of practical information as well. Books of travel are always attractive, and rarely indiffering, reading, especially for the young; and this book of travel is, to our mind and for the reasons given, about the most attractive and edifying of the kind we have ever met with. We would therefore heartily advise all who wish to place a book in the hands of youth from which they must derive at once amusement, information, and fine manly sentiments, to select for this purpose Mr. Henry Kingsley's "Tales of Old Travel." As a specimen both of Mr. Kingsley's style and of the kind of teaching his readers will frequently meet with, we extract the following short passage from "The Wanderings of a Capuchin":—

The Ceremonialists of the present day, even at Rome itself, would hardly get up such a spectacle as was seen by Father Denis at Pernambuco, in 1666, on the Feast of the Rosary in the Church of Corpo Santo: 10,000 ells of fine coloured silk (draped, we suppose, from the clerical gallery); a lofty tabernacle, covered with silk embroidered with flames of gold; a silver galleon over it, ravishing music, and—10,000 slaves landed per annum. Some may say, "Their life here among Christians must have been an improvement on their old African heathenism." We say nothing, but only quote good Father Merolla twelve years later, and so leave the reader to palter with slavery and popery as he chooses:—"To uphold the sugar-works a vast number of slaves are required: some there are who have no less than 500 slaves for this purpose, and whose labour is so hard and sustenance small that they are reckoned to live long if they hold out seven years." So much for the civilisation of the negroes in those days.

Again, but going backward in point of events, this is Mr. Kingsley's account of the Tartar conquest of China:—

South of the Hoang-Ho they (the Tartars) had not penetrated, and all China proper was governed by an amiable and philanthropic Prince called Fanfur, a Prince devoted entirely to the exercise of humanity and to the care of his people, save in one point—he neglected his defences; and Kublai Khan, having no earthly cause of quarrel with him, only a "manifest destiny" to act with, acted on his manifest destiny, invaded him without the slightest pretext with an overwhelming army, drove him from his dominions, and annexed China—rather a large stroke of business in our degenerate eyes, but nothing in those days.

By-the-by, Mr. Kingsley makes merry, and not without cause, over the blunders as to dates and distances made by certain "able editors" who have superintended issues of the books he deals with; and yet, curiously enough, he is not innocent of similar slips himself: as, for instance, when, on page 19, he gives an account of the return of Nicolo and Maffeo Polo to Kublai Khan, accompanied by Nicolo's son. We there read—"He soon had his old friends brought before him, and for the first time saw young Marco. 'And who may that be?' he asked the Russian autocrat who had received the Chinese education, with slightly sardonic politeness." Now, who was "the Russian autocrat" in this colloquy? Not Nicolo Polo, for he was a Venetian, but clearly the Tartar, Kublai Khan; in which case how did he come to ask a question of himself that could only be answered by another? Palpably, the "he" we have italicised is superfluous. Again, on page 54, the Poli are spoken of as the "two brothers and the uncle," when nephew ought to have been written. The like confusion recurs in the sentence (page 36), "Life was now over for the two uncles." As Nicolo Polo was Marco's father, he could not well be his uncle also; and it is equally impossible for Maffeo to have been two single avuncular gentlemen rolled into one. These are slight faults, to be sure, and do not mar sense; but they serve to show that no one is perfect—not even Mr. Henry Kingsley.

The Poetical Works of Eliza Cook. A complete Edition. London: F. Warne and Co.

We had no idea, until we received this book and peeped into its contents, that Miss Eliza Cook had written such an immense quantity of rhyme. We knew the lady was a prolific verse-maker; but that her productions should occupy upwards of 600 closely-printed pages, was to us, we confess, a surprise. Yet here they are, handsomely printed, and more than handsomely—in fact, most elegantly—bound; and we see no reason to question the sincerity of the authoress when she tells us in the brief preface to the work that "it is with considerable pride, and more pleasure," that she presents to the public in one volume the whole of her poems. It is true that fastidious criticism, and perhaps even sound judgment, if not good taste, might have dictated the omission of a good many pieces that have little to recommend them except that they help to swell the volume, and so give an appearance of "plenty for the money" (if that be a merit in literary wares), but which can hardly do much towards either extending or fixing the fame of the authoress. But excision is about the last virtue to which a poet—especially a female poet—is equal; and so the world must be content to accept from the hands of Miss Eliza Cook a good deal that is somewhat weak for the sake of the many pieces that really possess merit. Miss Cook rarely, if ever, rises to the heights of real poetry; but, in the words of one of the title-page mottoes (borrowed from Burns, who had the best of rights to say so), her muse, "though homely in attire," does not unfrequently "touch the heart." Though the authoress of "The Old Arm-chair" has written much that was scarcely worth preserving, she has produced some things that decidedly are; and that she has a public, and a large one, is proved by the numerous editions of her works that have been published and the extensive sale they have met with. So we heartily congratulate both her and her admirers on the appearance of this complete edition of her works in Warne's handsomely got-up series called "The Chandos Poets."

Belinda; or, The Waifs of Love. London: F. PITMAN.

Here we have upwards of thirty pages of metre, written, apparently, for the purpose of teaching wives not to notice too curiously the failings of their husbands. But, however good the intention of the author may have been, in leading up to his moral he has exhibited coarseness without wit and vulgarity without a trace of humour. On the score of decency and good taste, we are entirely forbidden to give quotations to point the truth of these brief remarks; nor should we advise the reader to take the trouble to find them for himself.

Christ is Coming. London: John B. Day.

"Ye foolish nations, ye have placed yourselves under the rule of murderers, through your disunion; and they give you justice that is perverted into robbery, into lies, into duplicity, into violence; safety that is destruction; rest that is feverish anxiety and poverty; and they give you for ministers of God men as perverted and corrupt as yourselves." Having run through about a dozen pages in this manner, the author, who has not favoured us with his name, calls upon pulpit and press to urge upon hearers and readers the

sale and circulation of his little book. The pulpit and press would be doing an ill service to the cause of religion were they to do anything of the sort.

Brilliant Prospects. By R. L. JOHNSON. Griffin and Co.

This is a Christmas book, and the author, if we mistake not, has previously made his mark in this branch of literature under a *nom de plume*. The drollery with which the story abounds is unmistakable and will cause hearty laughter.

GIFT-BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

We have already mentioned some of the books for the young that have recently made their appearance, either in re-issues or in first editions; and our table is again literally loaded with works of the like sort. In looking at these elegant volumes, the wish that we were young again comes upon us with unusual force; for certainly the youth of these days have immense advantages, in regard to books as in most other things, to what fell to the lot of young people when our hair was black and curly. Ah! boys, you are lucky dogs nowadays, and if ye be not wise and good, it must be because ye wickedly neglect good, as well as varied, teaching. With so much ground to traverse, a word or two must suffice for each work on our list.

Foremost in the ranks of caterers of books for the young, as well in point of excellence as number, stand Messrs. Routledge and Sons, from whom we receive enough books to make a good library of themselves. First comes a portly volume that has now become an annual favourite—namely, "Routledge's Every Boy's Annual," a miscellany of entertaining original literature, consisting of tales, essays, descriptions of games and handicraft arts (such as wood engraving, &c.), and so containing something to suit every taste. When we add that the work is profusely illustrated, and that the editor, Mr. Edmund Routledge, has succeeded this year in producing a book fully equal to any of its predecessors in the series, we have said enough to ensure "Every Boy's Annual" a cordial reception. Messrs. Routledge also publish three very beautifully got-up books in small quarto, which have been prepared under the care of Dr. H. W. Dalcken, and are profusely illustrated. They are entitled respectively "The Golden Harp: Hymns, Rhymes, and Songs for the Young;" "Rhyme and Reason: a Picture Book of Verses for Young Folk;" and "One by One: a Child's Book of Tales and Fables." Both as regards matter and manner of production, these books are admirable, and cannot fail to be highly prized by whoever is lucky enough to possess them. Following these we have two tales, the one written by Mrs. Eiloart, and the other by Mr. Thomas Miller, and both neatly bound and illustrated. Mrs. Eiloart's tale is entitled "Tom Dunstone's Troubles, and How He Got Over Them," and inculcates a valuable lesson on character. Mr. Miller calls his book "Fred and the Gorillas," from which the reader will guess that its scene is laid in the Gaboon country, Africa, and that it details some startling adventures of the Du Chailleu order. We have nearly exhausted the space we can devote to Messrs. Routledge's productions, and so must restrict ourselves to an enumeration of the titles of the remainder. These are: "Anecdotes of Dogs," by the Rev. Charles Williams, M.A.; "Blanche and Agnes;" by Mrs. Perring; "The Lost Chamois-Hunter: a tale of the Matterhorn;" "Holidays at Limerwood," a series of tales told on eight successive days; and Mrs. Barbauld's "Lessons for Children." Some of these books we have seen before, but each is good of its kind.

Mr. W. H. G. Kingston has an established reputation as a writer of books for boys, and his works have always about them an odour of the sea and of adventure in strange regions that is irresistible to spirited youths; and yet, withal, Mr. Kingston's writings have method in their madness—that is, a practical purpose and practical teaching pervade even the wildest adventure narrated. Messrs. T. Nelson and Sons have therefore done good service by publishing beautifully-illustrated editions of three of this author's best works—namely, "Old Jack, a Tale for Boys;" "A Voyage Round the World;" and "My First Voyage to Southern Seas." For all, or either, of these cleverly written, handsomely bound, and elegantly printed volumes we are sure boys of all ages—except, of course, the very young—will be grateful.

From Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton we receive "Old Merry's Annual," being the volume for the past year of the most genial of children's magazines, of which it is enough to say that in this issue it is as good as ever. The same publishers also give us "Jacob and Joseph, and the Lesson of their Lives for the Young," a book the title of which explains its character. Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton likewise publish two books which, if not exactly suited for the young, are yet addressed to those who have the largest share in their management—that is to say, women. The one is entitled, "Education of the Heart: Woman's Best Work," by Mrs. Ellis; and the other "Priest and Nun, a Story of Convent Life," by the author of "Almost a Nun," &c. Mrs. Ellis's book, being mainly a reprint from the "Leisure Hour," is probably, in substance, already familiar to many of our readers; and as "Priest and Nun" touches on somewhat delicate ground, perhaps we shall be excused if we abstain from entering further into the subject-matter of either.

Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin are to the fore with a further batch of books for juveniles, among which is yet another edition of the never-stale "Robinson Crusoe." It is a pity, perhaps, that this or any edition of Crusoe's adventures should be issued without the slightest indication of the now pretty generally received fact that the story, however suggested, was designed by Jo Foe as a sort of allegorical account of his own life's struggles; but we have not the faintest reference to that theory in the preface to this edition, in which it might very well have been at least mentioned. There are upwards of one hundred illustrations to this version, some of which are good, while others are both coarsely engraved and still more coarsely printed. The book, in short, which is a large octavo, is altogether rather clumsy in appearance and decidedly inconvenient for reading. Among Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin's other publications are—1. "Picture Natural History, including Zoology, Fossils, and Botany," with upwards of six hundred illustrations, the text being by Mary E. C. Boutell, edited, with a preface and introduction, by the Rev. Charles Boutell, M.A.—a useful book; 2. "Picture Teaching for Young and Old," by Janet Byrne, containing lessons and pictorial illustrations of a vast variety of things; 3. "The Hillside Farm," by Anna J. Buckland; and, 4. "The Little Orphan; or, Annie Thornley." These two last-mentioned books, which are illustrated by coloured plates, are, we fancy, old acquaintances, but will not perhaps be less welcome on that account.

From Messrs. Lockwood and Co. there comes a parcel of neat books adapted for the approaching season, most of which, however, are reprints. Among them is a new edition, with numerous additional engravings, of the birthday-book, entitled "Many Happy Returns of the Day," published some years ago by Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke; and a very pretty and appropriate natal-day present it is. Another of the same publishers books is called "Sunbeam Stories," being the fourth series of a selection of tales by the author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam," and containing "Minnie's Love" and "Married and Settled." The latter is likewise issued in a separate form. These, too, are old friends. Other books from the same firm are "The Way to Win: a Story of Adventure Afloat and Ashore," by Charles A. Beach; and "The Boy's Home Book of Sports, Games, and Pursuits."

Not the least valuable of books of the class under consideration are two just issued by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. One of these, "The Wood Nymph," by Hans Christian Andersen, translated from the Danish by A. M. and Augusta Plesner, is quite a little gem, not so much for its outside embellishment as for its intrinsic merits. We have much pleasure in recommending this, we suppose, latest production of the prince of juvenile and fairy story-writers. It is prettily illustrated with coloured engravings. Another work from the same house is by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson, author of "Stanton Grange," "British Birds' Eggs and Nests," &c., and is entitled "Lost; or, What came of a Slip from 'Honour Bright.'" The moral taught is excellent, and the story itself interesting.



THE FÊTES IN EGYPT: EXHIBITION OF DANCING-GIRLS AT SYOUT.

THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pull Mall Gazette* thus describes the passage through the Suez Canal on the 17th ult. There were, it seems, various rumours afloat to the effect that serious obstacles to the progress of the inaugural fleet existed at certain portions of the new water-way; and the writer says that "on Wednesday morning canards were flying about thicker than ever in the harbour at Port Said. A vessel had grounded twenty-two miles up the canal, which chanced to be true. Nothing drawing above 14 ft. of water could possibly reach Ismailia. Happen what might, there was little to be learned from authority. A list of some forty steamers had been made out to be sent through in order named, but it was hard to get hold of it, and at seven in the morning they had their sailing orders. It was certain that the Khedive's yacht, the *Maer*, and her companion, which had carried many of his guests from Alexandria, were not to peril themselves in the isthmus, and their passengers were to shift for themselves. A chivalrous brigade of Teutons from the former carried the latter by boarding, on the strength of her being smaller. Unluckily their intelligence was scarcely equal to their determination and organisation, and they found they had only succeeded in changing their quarters without gaining an inch of ground on the pilgrimage. The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental most wisely declined to

hazard the interests of their shareholders and a valuable vessel, on most uncertain assurances and data, in a long water-lane where there was no turning, and deferred a decision as to the start. The more impatient of the passengers scattered like a shower of rockets, some falling on the decks of lighter vessels, others into a slough of despond. Your correspondent was most fortunate in receiving the elastic hospitality of H.M.'s surveying-ship *Newport*; so, with the lead going continually, he can speak with confidence as to the soundings of M. Lesseps's desert ditch. Each turn of the screw confirmed one's original impression as to the improbability of M. Lesseps having invited Europe to the perpetration of a gigantic hoax. From Port Said to Ismailia there was nothing, generally, more shallow than 26 ft. It would be premature to send one's crude first impression of the engineering of the canal. It is evident, however, that for the opening the difficulties have been in some measure lessened by the high Nile, which carries the canal through water where sand is laid down on the chart. Through the mud of Lake Menzaleh there had apparently been little very recent dredging. Farther on, from Lake Ballah to Lake Timsah, is the thirteen miles of loose sand, where experts prognosticated the greatest danger of silting. Of that, of course, it is impossible to say anything in merely passing; but it was clear from the flaky appearance of the face of the embankments that there was no drift there, and that they had

hardened and consolidated with time. The channel was admirably clear throughout; it was quite exceptional when, at twenty-one miles and three-quarters from Port Said, the lead only gave 23 ft. of water, and later at one place, for a very short space, it shoaled still more. Several of the bends were somewhat sharp, and consequently awkward for long vessels; but there was nothing that could not be easily overcome at some slight cost of time and warps. The sun as he went down was replaced by a splendid moon, and the procession moved onwards, although somewhat more slowly. One or two of the vessels in advance had decided to make themselves comfortable for the night where they were, till stirred to excitement, emulation, and a fresh start by the *Newport* slipping by them. We fulfilled our destiny and came to rest ourselves for the night in the deep waters of Lake Timsah—thanks to a feat of pilotage that looked to a landman like prestidigitation, gained the enthusiastic approbation of the load of professional passengers we carried from the fleet, and was even applauded, in defiance of all rule, by the enthusiasm that gained the men on the fore-castle. The *Peluse*, French Messageries boat, had swung round partially and taken ground near the embouchure of the canal in the lake, and had moored quietly for the night, with her hawser across the deep water—four fathoms. All other vessels behind, *bon gré mal gré*, had found themselves constrained to do the same. Captain Nares, however,



ARRIVAL OF TOURISTS AT DENDERAH, UPPER EGYPT.

felt by no means equally disposed to resign himself and condemn his guests to leave their share of the work of the day unfinished in deference to timid example and the floating obstacles blocking the channels. Combining prudence with dash, he first assured himself of every inch of his way by careful boat soundings. Narrow and winding it necessarily was—now on the port, now on the starboard, of the ships to be passed; and along it the Newport, held perfectly in hand, twisting and bending to the turning of a finger, glided gently like a water serpent, just grazing the ship's sides, but never once touching the ground. The crew of the Peluse raised a wail of dismay as we bore down on her stern, but round her we swept, never scraping her paint, although you might have cracked a biscuit between the two hulls. It is, moreover, the most startling proof that had been given in the day of the success of M. Lesseps and his engineers, for the feat was performed in one of the narrowest parts and the deepest cutting. This morning Ismailia lies before us, a long rambling desert city of flat-roofed houses, white Frankish and brown Bedouin tents. The flag-lieutenant assures us that four vessels have come through from Suez reporting 16 ft. 3 in. of water. I forgot to say the Aigle, the Empress's yacht, led off the procession at precisely 8.30 a.m."

The opening of the Suez Canal, then, is an accomplished fact; and, though the works have been hurried on, at an enormous expense, in order to complete it by the appointed time, the problem of uniting the two seas is solved, and the desert already begins to blossom like the rose. At any rate, it blossomed gaily enough during the sojourn of the guests invited by the Khedive to be present on that great occasion. And what a multitude of visitors accepted the hospitality of the Eastern vassal of the Sultan. The guests slept under tents, dined sumptuously in the refreshment sheds, where banquets of several courses and various wines of excellent quality were served constantly; while even the courteous waiters politely refused to accept a gratuity, lest they should bring discredit on the magnificent hospitality of their master. Two meals a day were devoured by many a chance tourist who had no claim on the viceregal consideration; but there was no stint, and the event that such splendid profusion was meant to celebrate was sufficient to excuse any interloper whose credentials were not very keenly inspected. From the Empress downward the guests were received and entertained with a generous contempt for expense truly Oriental; and even the Empress herself must now and then have been astonished at the magnificence with which her reception had been provided for.

At the Palace Ghessireh, an Engraving of which appears on another page, the resources of art were put into requisition in order to render it a marvel of luxurious repose, the culminating effect being produced in the private apartments of her Majesty, of one of which (the bed-chamber) we publish an illustration. The whole of the decorations were in the most superb style of the age of Louis XV., the bedstead being of gilded iron, entirely draped with blue satin and white gauze hangings, the coverlid being of magnificent lace, and the window drapery of blue satin trimmed with gold and white fringe. In the bay of the window stood a table, containing a silver statuette of the Prince Imperial and a

bust of the Emperor. The dressing-room, adjoining this apartment, was in the same style, but with Turkish and Arabic details of ornamentation. The drapery of the windows and doorway was also of blue satin, but the toilette of rose-colour covered with light curtains of embroidered muslin. Every article of furniture was itself a marvel of exquisite workmanship; and the whole place, in the quietude of the beautiful garden by which the palace is surrounded, seemed to invite the visitor to rest.

There has been but little rest, however, for those who went in for the whole round of entertainments provided for the guests. To "do Egypt" is no easy task when you have Vice-regal assistance for accomplishing the feat within a given time; for Egypt is not to be done without such aid,

and it is astonishing how much has to be gone through before it has even begun to be exhausted, or its interest to flag by reason of positive physical fatigue. One can hardly imagine it to diminish much from any other cause unless by a long residence, with ample leisure to explore and the means for conducting researches.

From the first arrival at Denderah, where the fortunate invitees first felt that they were really on the threshold of the Old World, there began a series of entertainments and excursions that have lasted until now; and even at Denderah itself the interest began, for the guests arrived amidst a crowd of fellahs who had been engaged in the laborious occupation of clearing away the rubbish, stones, and impediments; and, in fact, making a road for the passage of the fortunate Franks. At this place, of which we publish an Engraving, the visitors were at once impressed with a sight of the vestibule of the ancient temple for which the place is noted. A vast hall, supported by twenty-four columns, with Egyptian capitals, representing the head of Isis or of Athor, and each of them between 20 ft. and 30 ft. in circumference at the base. Like all the Egyptian temples, that of Denderah seems to have been placed in a great inclosure, as may be seen by the two gateways which still remain at a considerable distance from the ruins. Its construction dates from the reign of Ptolemy XIII., and it is the best preserved and most splendid temple in Upper Egypt; so splendid that it is the principal attraction of the district. It is indeed a magnificent mine, rich in the mystic sculpture of the ancient Egyptians, and almost overpowering in its effects upon the imagination. The building was completed in the reign of Tiberius, and the decorations in the time of Nero, and the ornamentation covers even the staircases with profuse details, which are everywhere repeated. It would require more space than we have at our disposal to describe this remarkable building; and, in truth, the number of visitors who traversed it had scarcely time to note more than its most prominent features.

There was so much to do and so many excursions to make on the way to the grand trying-place at the canal that it required a robust appetite for exertion to get through all that was expected of the travellers. Ruins, heights, quarries, tombs, sepulchres, hypogaeums, and the wonderful remains as well as the strange scenery of Upper Egypt, and especially of the route by the Lybian chain, all claimed attention, and for the most part were noted in that panoramic journey. At Guenich the entertainments (in the ordinary sense of that term) may be said to have commenced, for, after an Egyptian banquet to which the guests, or, at least, some of the more favoured visitors, were invited, there was a genuine exhibition of those dancing-girls whose performances have become famous even in Europe. These girls, the most eminent of whom are of a distinct tribe called Ghawazee, formerly gave their entertainments in the public streets, and were frequently of disreputable character. The immodesty of these performances, however, led to their being forbidden by law, some years ago, and girls are now only engaged to perform at private parties, where it is customary to choose the Almées, or singing-girls, to amuse the guests, so that the word Almée has come to mean singer or dancer indifferently, and the girls perform in both entertain-



AN ARAB CAFÉ AT SYOUT, UPPER EGYPT.



A CAVALCADE IN THE DESERT, EGYPT.

ments. They are of course unveiled, and wear a dress differing but slightly from the ordinary Egyptian costume, but of richer and more gaudy materials. Their eyes are painted with collyrium, their hands and bare feet stained with the red dye of the henna, and their orchestra principally consists of a kind of mandolin and tum-tums. These Egyptian dancers are wonderfully agile, and, beginning with a slow and stately movement, soon give evidence of an activity that is only to be attained by long practice. They whirl, wave, bend in supple grace, fling themselves about with wild abandon, and go through a performance sometimes a little too suggestive of the reputation they have attained. On the occasion represented by the engraving, made from a sketch of the scene, however, there was nothing of this kind—it was dancing full of grace, and with a good deal of the true "poetry of motion." The exhibition concluded with a wonderful sabre-dance, in which the performer began by inserting the points of a couple of yataghans in the corners of her eyes, one on each side of the nose, and went through an elaborate figure with these strange ornaments hanging in this position, her fine and intelligent countenance unmoved even by the plaudits of the usually undemonstrative Arabs themselves.

On the following day this strange exhibition seemed like a dream; but still the evidences of reality were before the travellers, since everything about them was Egyptian; and, with excursions to the bazaars, donkey and mule rides, feasts, visits to private banquets, fresh entertainments, and more dancing Almées; journeys to the beautiful valley to inspect the wonders of Medinet-Abou, Damasseum, the temple of Gournah, and other spectacles, not the least of them being the colossal statues of Memnon, standing up to the knees in the lake caused by the rising of the Nile above the spot which is supposed to cover the ruins of a submerged temple, the time was fully as well as pleasantly occupied.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

SINCE the erection of the new stage and theatre, operas in English have been played with great success two or three days in each week. Large as the theatre is, it has been constantly crowded. The necessary rehearsals and preparations for the Christmas pantomime, which is always produced at the Crystal Palace a few days before Boxing Day, necessitates the termination of the English opera performances after next week, up to which time they will be continued, in order that visitors to London for the cattle show may witness one or more representations.

As an appropriate addition to the attractions during the cattle show a tripe horse, recently mentioned in the daily press as a hitherto unheard-of freak of nature, will be on view. The horse was bred on a stock-breeder's farm in Australia, and it was not until some months after it saw the light that it was discovered nature had not endowed it with its full complement of legs. It is described as a bay filly, aged fourteen months, really symmetrical and pleasant to the eye, and not in any way unsightly. Its movements are, of course, exceedingly curious, but not in the least degree awkward. The exhibition will undoubtedly attract considerable attention amongst naturalists and the public generally.

In the Tropical Department, which, being thoroughly warmed, is at this time of year the favoured resort, a temporary billiard-room has been fitted up, which will be opened on Monday, Dec. 6, by a match between Messrs. Cook and Dafton, 1000 up, the latter giving the former 200 points. The play will commence at three o'clock, but will not interfere with the usual afternoon instrumental concert.

On Tuesday Balfe's favourite opera, "The Bohemian Girl," will be played in the new theatre; on Wednesday, Dibdin's ballad operas, "The Quaker" and "The Waterman;" and on Thursday, Wallace's "Maritana." These will be the last three performances of English opera for the winter season. The operas, which have been produced under the direction of Mr. George Perren, have been received with great satisfaction, and large attendances have resulted in spite of the very unfavourable weather of the past month. All approaches to the palace being under cover, and the theatre and entire palace being kept at an even temperature, it is found that external influences do not affect the attendance of visitors during the winter months to such an extent as they used to do.

On Saturday the first performance of Mr. Arthur Sullivan's oratorio, "The Prodigal Son," brought out with éclat at the last Worcester Musical Festival, will be given, in which Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Santley, and other distinguished artists, will take part. After the oratorio the annual presentation of prizes to the successful competitors of the London Rifle Brigade by the Lady Mayoress, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff, and other distinguished visitors, will take place on the Handel orchestra. The palace will be appropriately decorated and lighted up after the ceremony, during which the band of the brigade will perform for promenade.

The Christmas pantomime has been in preparation for some time past. It will this year be founded on the popular history of Dick Whittington and his cat. It is as yet premature to speak of the principal scenes and incidents introduced into it for the gratification of holiday folk; but it is worthy of remark that the Crystal Palace Christmas pantomimes have been increasing in attractiveness year by year, and there is no doubt a treat will be found in store for the holiday visitors in advance even of former years. It is understood that the pantomime produced last season was very profitable to the company; this will lead to renewed exertions in the present instance.

An important means of access to the palace, expected to be completed and open during the coming week is the East London Railway, running from Wapping to New Cross, thus bringing the palace easily accessible from the east end of the metropolis, via the Brighton Company's line. Although this new line is only a small part of the complete system which will ultimately connect the Great Eastern line and the North London Railway (at Broad-street) with the southern lines, via the Thames Tunnel, even in its incomplete state it will be of no small advantage as a feeder of traffic to the Crystal Palace from the vast district at the East-End, the inhabitants of which have been unable to get there except by the long and circuitous route available only by way of London Bridge. The line, which is but short, will run, as already stated, from Wapping to New Cross, thus bringing the east of London in direct communication with Sydenham. Trains will run frequently during the day, but for the present passengers will have to change carriages at New-cross station.

THE FENIANS AND THE LAND QUESTION.—A pastoral has been issued by Cardinal Cullen strongly condemnatory of Fenianism. His Eminence maintains that the conspiracy is allied with Orangemen and interested land agents to prevent useful legislation. The Fenians successfully attempted to prevent a tenant-right gathering at Dundalk the other day, and a scene of great confusion was the result. About the same time there was a great gathering of tenant-farmers in Roscommon—the High Sheriff presiding; and resolutions demanding fixity of tenure were passed. With respect to the vacant seats in Ireland, it is stated that Kirkham, one of the liberated Fenian convicts, is to be put in nomination for Mallow when Mr. Sullivan goes to the vacant seat on the bench in the Rolls Court, and that "Captain" Mackay, who is still in prison, will be proposed for Longford, in succession to Lord Greville.

IMPORTANT MINING OPERATIONS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—It having been discovered that coal exists in immense quantities throughout the whole of the district lying in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, some important mining operations are now in progress. On the estate of the late Sir Robert Clifton one of the finest shafts in the kingdom has been sunk, and already several splendid beds of coal have been passed through. It is intended to proceed to a depth of over 120 yards, which will allow the whole area of the estate to be worked. Some of the beds—one being the Dunell—passed through are over 3ft. in thickness. It is stated that there is sufficient coal under the Wilford estate to make Mr. Markham Clifton, the new proprietor, the richest man in the north midland counties. Suggestions have been made that the Corporation of Nottingham should open collieries on their land, where, it is said, large quantities of the mineral exist. By this means it is argued that the local rates, which are now excessively high, in consequence of town improvements, might be greatly reduced. Borings for coal are also being made at East Leake, where, should the mineral be found, an extensive colliery will be opened.

THE OPERA AND CONCERTS.

"DER FREYSCHÜTZ" was performed on Saturday last for the first time during the present season. Its choice is not a matter for surprise, although the work, in Italian form, and with the recitatives of Hector Berlioz, appears by no means to the best advantage. However represented, Weber's romantic masterpiece cannot but be welcome to those able to recognise a work of genius; the wonder is, therefore, that "Der Freyschütz" does not oftener have a place in our operatic programmes. Saturday's performance calls for few remarks, because its cast was familiar. The Agatha of Mdlle. Titiens and the Annetta of Mdlle. Sinico are too well known to need description: enough that both ladies were as successful as ever, and that the pretty duet, "Qui furbone," was made, by their united exertions, one of the effects of the evening. Mr. Santley's Caspar is another impersonation with which the public have an intimate acquaintance. It, too, was a success, the drinking song earning a special encore and recall. Signor Mongini is not well suited by Weber's music, and his Rodolfo consequently left somewhat to desire. Mr. Lyall as Zamiel was not less picturesque than diabolical, and Mdlle. Bauermeister made an efficient bridemaid. The choruses were fairly sung, and the orchestra (conducted by Signor Beignani) had to repeat the universally-popular overture. During this week the performances have been repetitions, calling only for simple record. On Monday the opera was "Les Huguenots;" on Tuesday, "Le Nozze di Figaro;" on Thursday, "Don Giovanni;" and for Saturday (this evening) "Roberto il Diavolo" is announced.

The Sacred Harmonic Society began a new season yesterday week with a performance of "Israel in Egypt," conducted by Sir Michael Costa. No detailed notice is called for, and it will suffice to mention that the chief singers were Miss Wynne, Miss Sofia Vinta, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Lewis Thomas, and Mr. Winn. The performance was an average success. Next Friday a quasi-novelty, Handel's "Deborah," will be presented. Of this great but rarely heard work we hope to speak in due time.

Rossini's "Messe Solennelle" was produced at the Crystal Palace last Saturday, under the direction of Mr. Manns, and with the co-operation of Miss Edith Wynne, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. W. H. Cummings, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. With regard to the work itself, we must say that each successive hearing confirms our original impression of its merits. The mass has defects, undoubtedly, but it has more than compensating beauties, and will on that account never be forgotten. The Crystal Palace performance was by no means faultless. To its defects, however, the soloists contributed nothing, because each sang well. The chorus was zealous, but its zeal was, in many cases, without knowledge; while the band was overpoweringly loud, and Mr. Manns's tempo now and then fatally hurried. Altogether, the execution of Rossini's last work was neither respectful to the composer nor honourable to the "Palace."

Three out of the six pieces in the last Monday Popular programme were by Schubert, and each well represented the genius of the master. The quartet in A minor, for example, may challenge comparison with any work of its kind on the score of genuine loveliness. Admirers of the composer will hardly forgive us for not dwelling upon the opening allegro. We must do so, however, to assert the surpassing beauty of the andante, the theme of which can hardly be forgotten. Equally admirable in its way and even more original is the minuetto; while the finale brings the entire work to a worthy end. In brief, the A minor quartet of Schubert is one of the most precious of musical treasures. It was admirably played by Madame Norman-Néruda, M. Ries, Zerbini, and Piatti. The second Schubert selection was the trio in B flat, of which Schumann wrote—"One glance at this trio and all the pitiful clouds of life disperse, and the world shines again as fresh and bright as ever." This is, of course, hyperbole, but none the less is the trio that "joy for ever"—a thing of beauty. In the hands of Madame Néruda, Signor Piatti, and Mr. Charles Hallé no part of its excellence was obscured. The work was perfectly rendered, and, though late in the programme, appeared to be keenly enjoyed. The third composition of the master was a song, "Alinde," expressively sung by Miss Anna Jewell, who also gave "Deh vieni." As his solo, Mr. Hallé played Mozart's well-known sonata in D major, and the concert terminated with Beethoven's pianoforte and violin sonata in A minor, op. 23. On Monday next Mr. Hallé will play Schubert's sonata in B flat for pianoforte alone.

Another of the Nilsson concerts took place in Exeter Hall on Wednesday, conducted by Mr. Henry Leslie and attended by an immense audience. The first part of the programme consisted of Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," the solos in which were confided to Mdlle. Nilsson and Mr. Sims Reeves. Mdlle. Nilsson repeated the triumph she so legitimately obtained in "The Messiah" and "The Creation." She brings to everything abundant expressive power; but the fervour manifested throughout "Praise thou the Lord, O my spirit" was altogether exceptional, and made the deepest impression. The charming duet and chorus, "I waited for the Lord," wherein Madame Gilardoni was associated with Mdlle. Nilsson, would have had a capital rendering but for an awkward contretemps which spoiled one of its finest passages. "My song shall be always of Thy mercy," the second duet, joined the voices of Mdlle. Nilsson and Mr. Reeves, with what result it would be superfluous to say. Nothing more satisfactory can easily be imagined. In the recitative, "We called through the darkness," Mr. Reeves made his usual great effect; and the choir fully deserved the applause that followed the chorale, "Let all men praise the Lord." Some parts of the symphonic introduction were taken too fast; otherwise the orchestra and conductor gave little cause for complaint. The second part was miscellaneous, and included nothing but more or less familiar selections. It will be enough to say of it that Signor Gardoni was encased in a canzone, "Sù andiam;" that Mr. Reeves was recalled after a performance of Blumenthal's "Requital;" and that Mdlle. Nilsson excited unbounded enthusiasm by her delivery of Ophelia's great scene in "Hamlet." The overture to "Der Freyschütz" closed the concert.

NEW MUSIC.

Carols, Ancient and Modern. Words and Music. London: Metzler and Co.

Among the minor revivals of our day is that of carol-singing. The practice has come rapidly into vogue, along with many another almost forgotten religious observance, and is being heartily followed up. Not only in the streets by perambulating choirs, but in the churches themselves, the venerable ditties which have reached us through centuries of time are now heard. As usual, demand has created supply. The work under notice contains forty-five carols, arranged for four voices, and in the majority of cases furnished with simple, effective harmony. In such a collection the chief interest must lie with the ancient examples; because we can only regard a modern carol as we look upon a modern Norman castle—that is to say, very much in the light of a sham. Messrs. Metzler and Co.'s volume is enriched with nearly all the best-known Christmas ditties, and presents, in a cheap form, the most complete collection of the day. The carols of recent date are those which have found more or less favour; and there are also some specimens of what is termed the carol-anthem. The latter are, to us, more novel than attractive.

The Popular Musical Library. Christmas Number. London: Metzler and Co.

Having resolved upon devoting their "Christmas Number" to dance music, the publishers have made a wise choice of contents. Of the twelve quadrilles, waltzes, and polkas here published the great majority are or have been first-class favourites. It will suffice to name, by way of proof, "Les Rats," "La Poete," "The Original Caledonian" and "Original Lancers" among the quadrilles, and "The Morning Star" and "Dreams on the Ocean" among the waltzes. It would be difficult to gather into so small a compass more of the order of beauty which belongs to dance music.

The Musical Bijou. Christmas Number. London: Metzler and Co.

There are here published fifteen new and popular comic songs, of the real music-hall calibre. We use the word "comic" because we find it on the titlepage, not because we recognise its descriptive truth. These ditties, from "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" to "Smoke your pipe at home," may be funny (let us hope so, at all events, for the sake of those who delight in them), but we must confess to an idea that they are about the dreariest concoctions imaginable. A gentleman who, at a Christmas feast, should be guilty of singing,

Turn her astern, make all taut below;
Throw the maindeck overboard, and let the painter go,
would surely enact the part of a death's head, and make everybody melancholy.

The Wayfarer. Song. The Verse by George Metzler. Music by JULES BENEDICT. London: Metzler and Co.

Whatever Mr. Benedict chooses to write is welcome, because more or less excellent. In the song before us the veteran composer has shown with what grace and effect he can employ simple materials. The form both of melody and accompaniment is old and well worn; but there are touches in Mr. Benedict's use of it which could only come from the hand of a master. The pathetic sentiment of the second verse is happily expressed; and, altogether, the song may claim a high rank. Mr. Metzler's verses are of more than average merit.

OBITUARY.

LADY BLANTYRE.—Lady Blantyre died on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Nice, where she had gone to pass the winter. Her Ladyship, who was born in 1825, was the second daughter of George Granville, second Duke of Sutherland. She leaves a family of four daughters and a son. Her third daughter, Evelyn, is married to Sir David Baird, Bart. Lady Blantyre was sister of the Duchess of Argyll, the Marchioness of Kildare, and the Marchioness of Westminster.

MR. DAVID NAPIER, MARINE ENGINEER.—The Scotch papers contain the announcement of the death, on the 23rd ult., of Mr. David Napier, of Glenshellish, Argyllshire, at the age of seventy-nine. Along with his distinguished relative, Mr. Robert Napier, of Shandon, he laid the foundation of the world-wide fame of the firm of Napier and Sons as shipbuilders and marine engineers. As far back as 1818 he was the first to introduce British coasting-steamers, as well as steam-packets, for our post-office service. He was also the first to establish a regular steam communication between Greenock and Belfast, which he did by means of the Rob Roy, a vessel of about 90 tons burden and 30-horse power, built by Mr. William Denny, of Dumbarton. For two winters this vessel plied, with great regularity and success, between these ports, and was afterwards transferred to the English Channel, to serve as a packet-boat between Dover and Calais. Shortly after this Mr. Napier had a vessel built for him by Messrs. Wood. She was larger than the Rob Roy, being of 120 tons, and supplied with two of Mr. Napier's engines, 30-horse power each, and was considered the finest steam-vessel of her time. She plied between Holyhead and Dublin. His enterprise was further shown by the establishment, in 1822, of the line of steam-vessels between Liverpool, Greenock, and Glasgow, in which the Robert Bruce, of 150 tons, with two 30-horse power engines; the Superb, of 240 tons, with two 35-horse power engines; and the Eclipse, 240 tons, with two 30-horse power engines were employed. Up to this time the largest steamer that had been built was the James Watt, by Messrs. Wood. Following this, in 1826, came the United Kingdom, a vessel which, for her size, was the wonder of the time. She was 160 ft. long, 26½ ft. beam, and 200-horse power. The machine was made by Mr. David Napier, and the ship was built by Mr. Steele, of Greenock. Mr. Napier likewise invented the steamer-engine, which was a great improvement on the side-lever, as occupying much less space. He was also one of the first, if not the first, to try the application of the surface condenser in marine engines. Mr. David Napier's social qualities were of a high order, and endeared him to all by whom he was known; but it is with him as an eminent marine engineer that the public have to do, and as such he will be gratefully remembered.

CAPTAIN BARRELL, R.N.—The death is also announced of Captain Justinian Barrell, who entered the Navy in 1791, and was the only surviving officer of Lord Howe's action of June 1, 1794. He afterwards served in the expedition to the Helder, and at the siege of Copenhagen; and, from the time of his entering the Navy up to 1811, had been present at the capture and destruction of more than one hundred of the enemy's vessels of war. He had been unemployed since 1815.

COMMANDER DACRES.—Sir S. C. Dacres, the senior sea Lord of the Admiralty, has received intelligence of the death of his eldest son, Commander Leonard Dacres, at the island of St. Thomas. The deceased officer was waiting to be relieved from the command of the gun-boat Cherub at the time of his death.

MR. BURCHAM, THE MAGISTRATE.—Mr. Burcham, the police magistrate, died at his residence on Saturday afternoon, at half-past one, after a painful and lingering illness, at the age of sixty-one. He was educated at the Norwich Grammar School, and entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as B.A. in 1830, and in 1832 was elected Fellow of his College. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1843, and selected the Norfolk Circuit. He was for some years one of the classical examiners, and an examiner of mental philosophy, in the London University. Both offices he resigned on his appointment as magistrate at Southwark Police Court, on the death of Mr. Gilbert Abbott A'Beckett, in 1856.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—The unfavourable rumours respecting the Suez Canal, which recently caused a fall in the price of the shares on the Paris Bourse, have called forth a statement from M. De Lesseps himself, who characterises them as absurd. Under date Ismailia, the 26th ult., he telegraphs that within the previous ten days fifty vessels, representing 35,000 tons, had passed from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and that no damage had been done to the banks. Another telegram of the same date, from Ismailia, states that the ordinary navigation was to commence with the Noel sailing-vessel, bound from Bordeaux to Bombay. Two mail-steamers bound to India had met in Lake Timah, a Dutch ship from Java, a steamer from Réunion, and three merchant-vessels from the Red Sea.

ALWAYS THE SAME.—Much is said as to the enormous costliness of the armaments of Europe, and it cannot be doubted that the immense sums annually extracted from the pockets of the people for the support of these establishments is one main cause of the poverty and misery which exist in all European countries. But there is another aspect of this question which is far less considered than it should be, and that is the incalculable moral mischiefs inflicted on society by large standing armies. The report of British Military Prisons, recently issued by Captain Duncane, Inspector-General, refers to the large amount of crime in the British Army, and to the increase of offences to an extent of 20 per cent in the past year. The newspapers have also lately contained repeated instances of suicides and homicides by British soldiers. The disgraceful immorality of garrison towns and camps, as at Aldershot and the Curragh of Kildare, continues to be little, if at all, diminished. On the Continent a similar state of things everywhere exists. The Pall Mall Gazette has just published a striking account of foreign armies, from which it appears that crime and vice everywhere abound amongst these. And this is a natural and inevitable consequence of the system. In France the annual conscription amounts to a minimum of 160,000 men. Every young man over twenty-one is liable to this conscription. The actual army of France amounts to 650,000 men, all of whom are prohibited from marriage, except in very peculiar cases. Hence it is no wonder that "the one thought of the French soldier is, how to win ewe-lams from the fold," in other words, how to seduce as many young women as possible, and so bring misery and ruin into previously peaceful households. The notorious condition of French garrison cities confirms the truth of the above charge. In Prussia things are little if at all better, and the local press of the provinces often narrate scandalous instances of violence and profligacy, even on the part of the officers of the army. Russian soldiers are a most degraded class. Some years ago it was the custom to punish criminals in that country by making them private soldiers. Everywhere in Russia the dirt of the military barracks is so disgusting that the small insects the whole neighbourhood in times of heat. The moral condition of the forces in other Continental States is also of a deplorable nature. Indeed it admits of no dispute that a standing army is necessarily a hotbed of every vice, and a curse to all people.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are the surest preventives of determination of blood to the head, paralysis apoplexy, and like disorders. This medicine rouses the liver to energetic action, and evacuates from the bowels a full and prompt response, which dispels the malady.

